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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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HORROR OF THE NORTH.

Fires in the Green Bay Region.

A Graphic Description of Its Horrors.

[From the Fond du Lac Commonwealth.]

The first news of a great disaster is generally exaggerated, but the first reports of the recent fires in the northwestern part of this State fell far short of the truth. When we heard that Peshtigo was burned, and sixty lives lost, every one said that it must be an exaggeration. They could not understand how, in a village, so many lives could be lost; but a recent visit to the fields of desolation and death made us wonder how any were saved.

From Oconto, twenty-five miles north of Green Bay, we went by teams through the burnt district to the Sugar Bush, Peshtigo and Marinette. The fire came close to Oconto, the people fighting it desperately to save the city. For the first eight miles south of the city the country was burned over, destroying immense quantities of timber and some houses. Scarcely an acre of ground escaped unburned. If the owners could cut the fire off which was burned so badly as to kill it, and get it manufactured into lumber this year, the loss would not be so fearful; but it would be impossible to cut so much in one year.

Eight miles north of Oconto the tornado began its terrible work of destruction. From this point to Peshtigo, a distance of twelve miles, the timber was very heavy. Where the tornado struck the timber it was mostly pine, and further on in it consisted of oak, beech and maple, many trees running up eighty feet to the first limbs. It is probable that the tornado carried the fire along with it with wonderful rapidity. For mile after mile not a tree of any size was left standing, only a sapling here and there, bending to the blast, withstood the storm. The trees were blown down, the roots, in many instances after the trees had fallen, standing twelve to fifteen feet high, with rocks and dirt among them, were left. The ground was covered with ashes or burned until it looked red. The underbrush, the small limbs of the trees, the bark, the leaves were all burned. It seems impossible that a week ago it was a forest of evergreen trees.

Wherever there was a culvert in the road built of logs and covered with ground, it was burned; also the logs in the corduroy road, leaving the ground hollow. There was no sign of life, either animal or vegetable. Even the wild animals that make the road burned to death. About fifteen miles north of Oconto is the lower Sugar Bush settlement. The road through the bush runs east and west. The land is cleared back and cultivated about three-quarters of a mile on each side of the road. The farm houses were scattered along this road for a distance of five miles. Not a building nor a fence is left. The colonies of bees were burned in their hives; every stump was burnt black, and in many instances in plowed fields the stumps were burned entirely away, leaving holes in the ground where the roots had been. The heat must have been intense. We saw the iron work of a wagon by the side of the road, and there was no evidences of any combustible material near the wagon, and yet iron was melted, and the tire of the wagon was left. The skeins had dropped in their proper places, with the tires lying around them. The chain lined it. Under the body of the wagon was stretched out from where the forward axle would have been, and at the other end of the chain lay the irons of the end of the tongue.

Near by where every farm house had stood were lying dead horses, cattle and hogs. Some of the horses were harnessed and bridled. Through this settlement runs a small stream of water, and the fish in it were dead. In this district but one family were saved. They ran down into a creek behind a small mound of earth; going into the water to the stream, but were found dead. None of the inhabitants were burned in their houses; they were found scattered in the fields. Twenty-six bodies were found in one field.

At Mr. May was found three-quarters of a mile northwest of his house, his wife about the same distance north, and his little boy, four years old, the same distance northeast. Nearly all the families, consisting of seventeen persons were all lost. They lived near each other. Mary owned a mill and three farms. Odd Mr. Newberry and family and Charles Newberry ran about half a mile and fell, and his little boy ran running hand in hand, were found a little beyond the father, lying side by side, while wife and mother was found on the road near a bridge. She, forgetful of self, was trying to find how to save her babe. Her charred hand was pressing the head of her child into the ground, so that it might not breathe the fire. The child's face was all that was uninjured. One of the Newberrys got into a well and died in the water under the bridge. Warsen Church, gradually to escape a scorching death, cut his throat with a jack knife. Charles Lamp took his wife and four children in a wagon when the fire began; the horses became unmanageable and upset the wagon; the children were thrown out one by one; Mrs. Lamp was thrown out. Mr. Lamp was dragged into the corner of a field, and was the only one of the family saved. Mrs. Caroline England, expecting to be consumed every moment, rode four miles on a load of wood and stood in the water five hours, saved three out of four of her sister's children, and gave birth to a daughter the day after. Mr. Ellis, a brother of Mr. Bush, a boy jumped into a barrel of rain water that stood near the house, and was saved; his wife and mother in a green turnip patch, started to go to them; but getting badly burned as he tried to climb the fence, fell back, and was burned up with the turnips.

Mr. Tanner, son-in-law of A. D. Harr of Underhill, Vt., left his house, and wife and two children; when his wife fell dead, he took a child under each arm and started on the run. His children died in his arms, and he threw them down a knife and tried to take his own life. After stabbing himself twice, and becoming satisfied that it was not to be, he began to make his way to Peshtigo, a distance of twelve miles; the timber was very heavy. When the tornado struck the timber it was mostly pine, and further on in it consisted of oak, beech and maple, many trees running up eighty feet to the first limbs. It is probable that the tornado carried the fire along with it with wonderful rapidity. For mile after mile not a tree of any size was left standing, only a sapling here and there, bending to the blast, withstood the storm. The trees were blown down, the roots, in many instances after the trees had fallen, standing twelve to fifteen feet high, with rocks and dirt among them, were left. The ground was covered with ashes or burned until it looked red. The underbrush, the small limbs of the trees, the bark, the leaves were all burned. It seems impossible that a week ago it was a forest of evergreen trees.

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The father and mother were burned to death. The two were found there, two days after, alive. The father sought refuge in a well. The curbing burned, and he was found there six days after, dead. The two were not found for three days. One woman with a babe ten days old, and four other small children, displayed more bravery than many a general on a battle field. She gathered her children around her and placed the coats of the children over the babe. She was badly burned, and one her of children has since died, but the baby escaped.

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, October 28, 1871.

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1871.

CITY TICKET

MAYOR,
BENJAMIN W. MORGAN.
CONTROLLER,
CHRISTOPHER L. MAGEE.
CONTROLLER,
ROBERT J. McGOWAN.

THE New York *World* of Monday contains another letter from its London correspondent concerning the rise and progress of the remarkable coalition between the peers and people, of which we gave some account in a late number of the COMMERCIAL. It appears that the initial steps of the movement were taken as long ago as last January, at which period Mr. SCOTT RUSSELL, the great ship-builder, acting for the skilled workmen of England, approached the liberal peers with a proposition similar to the contract made at a later date with the conservatives. But after a number of conferences had been held between them, Mr. RUSSELL became satisfied that it was useless to expect any practical concessions from the liberal aristocracy; whereupon negotiations were at once opened with the conservatives. We have already given the principal points of the agreement said to have been entered into. The peers seem to have accepted the responsibility thus imposed on them in a spirit as creditable to their hearts as to their intelligence. They say:

"They accept the responsibility of preparing legislative measures for carrying the objects of the workingmen into effect, and of bringing in and passing these measures through both Houses of Parliament. They do not conceal from themselves the great opposition which these measures will encounter in passing through Parliament; but they consider it their duty to make earnest efforts for the better understanding and closer union of the separate classes of society, and retaining to themselves perfect freedom of judgment and decision on the wisdom of the measures proposed to them, and the expedient modes of giving them effect, they cordially unite with the workingmen for the common good."

It is of course to be presumed that a prime agent in affecting this coalition has been the danger which threatens aristocratic institutions. When even Lord JOHN MANNERS—the immortal author of the couplet:

"Let trade and commerce, law and learning, die,
But save, O, save! our old nobility!"

Feels compelled to subscribe to such a movement, it is clear that not even the most incorrigible Tory of the realm can refuse to admit the firm hold which Democratic ideas are taking on the masses. Whatever concessions promise to be made are therefore to a considerable degree made in the hope of averting or at least of postponing a radical revolution. But notwithstanding this element of selfishness it seems every way probable that the coalition will result much more advantageously to the working classes than any scheme which those noisy apostles of chaos, BRADLAUGH and ODGER, could hit upon. The English masses do not care very greatly for abstract ideas, but hunger makes them as savage as wolves. It is a question of work and bread. If the peers can read the riddle of this Sphinx they are safe for some time to come.

THE gratifying intelligence comes to us from Washington that notwithstanding the opinion of Attorney General AKERMAN regarding the unconstitutionality of competitive examinations, the Civil Service Commission, now in session, will not abandon its labors in its work. This opinion, it will be remembered, was to the effect that Congress cannot enforce any system of regulations for appointments in the civil service which conflicts with or restricts the constitutional right of selection vested in the Executive. President GRANT, however, is said to have expressed his belief that if a system were once well established, and thoroughly tested with good results, the approval of the people would be so emphatic and pronounced that no subsequent administration would dare to overturn it in the interest of party politics; and the Commissioners are reported to hold the same views. It is conceded, moreover, that the President, if he so chooses, has the power to make his own selection of officers dependent upon the results of competitive examinations; while he can extend the same rules throughout the entire civil service by his power in the formation of his Cabinet, since no Cabinet officer could retain his position who should refuse to adopt and enforce such a system as he might recommend, notwithstanding the fact that Congress is powerless in the premises. This is said to be the view taken alike by the President and the Commission. There is therefore a prospect that we may really have a Civil Service reform, based on the system of competitive examination, after all. In this connection the testimony of Dr. MCCOSH, President of Princeton College, in relation to the practical operation of this method, is valuable. He was one of twelve examiners of applicants for the East India service, and testifies as follows:

"Every year a number of young men, trained in the college with which I was connected in Ireland, were successful in the competition, and are now occupying important spheres in India. I have watched the career of these young men with keen interest, and I am able to report that they have not carried out good men of business; they have maintained a high moral character, and that they are beyond the suspicion of being corruptible. In regarding it as the great Indian offices, the system has been extended to the home offices, and there it is also acknowledged by all candid men to be a great improvement on the old method of political patronage."

The country is sick and disgusted with the abuses and corruptions which inhere in and are fostered by the present practice, for that cannot be called a system which breeds only venality, incompetency, favoritism and chaos.

THE best is the cheapest. The poorest is the most costly. Shellac in hats, shoddy in coats, sand in shells, and paper soles to shoes, are counterfeits that do not pay, as the experience of the war fully proves. And now that Chicago is beginning again to repeat her wonderful history, she will doubtless heed the lesson taught her by the fire, and build in the spirit of resistance alike to the elements and the ages. And it will be a good thing for the whole country to take a new architectural departure. We have solved the problem of how to put up the showiest buildings at the least expense, and have paid for it at a considerably high figure, as Chicago already shows, and as other towns and cities, constructed on the model of Chicago, may yet more fully show. And as in war the innocent often suffer with the guilty, so in a great conflagration the solid, honest structures often go down in the melting heats kindled of the flimsy make-believes in which show takes the place of strength, and ornamentation stands for endurance. The paint upon a woman's cheek is not necessarily a sign of health, nor a gilded cornice to a house evidence of secure walls. What is needed is that more common sense and foresight shall be put into the construction of our buildings, and less attention paid to mere tinsel and show. Elegance and taste are admirable things in their way, but whether in architecture or education, we want a solid basis first, and polite accomplishments afterwards, and again have we had the lesson brought home to us that our great need is genuineness and sincerity, with ourselves as well as with our neighbors. Sanded wood-stone fronts may cheat the observer, but they do not cheat the flames. Chicago will need her lesson. Will other cities profit by her example?

THE opinion heretofore expressed by the COMMERCIAL that a very large proportion of English working men who are Republicans in theory will be content to remain Royalists so long as no overmastering necessity arises for a popularization of English institutions, receives remarkable confirmation from one of the most prominent of their own number. Mr. GEORGE POTTER, the noted trades unionist, has written a letter to the London *Times*, in which he states that if certain broad measures, honestly fitted to the circumstances, claims and needs of the masses, were adopted, it would put a stop to the agitation for a change in the form of government. The first, he says, is a reduction in the civil list; second, there must be such a reform in the House of Peers as will cause it to work in fuller harmony with the increasingly popular character of that representative system; thirdly, a readjustment of the electoral franchise; fourthly, the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church of England; fifthly, the settlement of the land question; and lastly, that the claims of the people should be advocated in Parliament and defended with the assistance of representatives from among themselves. As was to be expected, the letter is reported to have given considerable offense to BRADLAUGH, ODGER, and the Internationals, who regard Mr. POTTER's opinions as too conservative and fogyish. The *Times*, however, comments upon it very favorably, declares that it will be read with interest and satisfaction, and commends it to the careful consideration of the governing and privileged classes. The letter thoroughly sustains us in the views we have previously expressed.

IT IS the settled judgment that the shock produced by the Chicago calamity has as good as passed off, and that the gloom which for a time obscured the financial prospect is fast disappearing. While it is not necessary to concede that the calamity will prove a blessing, it is apparent now that the consequences will be far less disastrous than even the most courageous at first supposed. The city itself is beginning to rise again, and the process is already introducing wonderful activity, reaching far abroad. Pittsburgh is finding a market there for her specialties, which is likely to increase almost indefinitely. The wonderful activities incident to the event cannot do otherwise than exert a widely extended influence in business and monetary affairs. It is a matter for congratulation that an event that threatened consequences so overwhelming has already been felt at its worst, and that the outlook in this, and nearly every other direction, is cheering.

WILLIAM BAKEWELL, Esq., of this city, has been tendered, by Governor GEARY, an appointment on the State Board of Charities, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of CHARLES A. WOOD, Esq., and has signified his acceptance of the position. Mr. BAKEWELL entertains liberal and advanced views on the question of public charities, and his counsel in all matters claiming the attention of the Board will no doubt prove highly valuable.

Two Great Lights Extinguished.

By the death of Mr. Charles Babbage and Sir Roderick Murchison, two of the greeat lights of science have been put out. Allibon says that Babbage was born in 1790, but another authority, usually accurate, says that he was born in 1792. If this is correct, both the great men just departed first saw the light of this world in the same year, and their deaths will in all future time be referred to as a noteworthy coincidence. A good many years ago the name of Babbage was much more frequently in the mouths of men than it has been recently. Born at Teignmouth, in Devonshire, he pursued his studies at Cambridge, where he graduated in 1814 with a very high mathematical rank. Being rich he was able to gratify his fondness for mathematics, which he early began to believe susceptible of a more directly practical direction than the subject had ever received. His first publication was a contribution to the Royal Society on "The Economy of Manufactures," published in 1832, in which year he was taken off all the most noteworthy processes, and hints were imparted for adoption and improvement. The writing of this book was a mere *parergon* or bye-work, as the Greeks called it. His arithmetical machine was to consist of two quite distinct parts, or inventions, one for calculating and the other for printing mathematical and nautical tables. The first was begun in 1826, and in 1833 it was nearly complete in all its allimportant particulars, with sufficient efficiency, when the work encountered an unpleasant interruption. Though the part of the machine for printing the tables calculated by the other was more full and perfect, the aggregate expense had already run up to 17,000 pounds sterling, while twice as much more was believed to be necessary to complete it. In terror of the cost, combined with misgivings as to the ultimate ability of the machine, the government abandoned the undertaking, and the invention as a whole always remained unfinished, though the calculating portion of it has been a world's wonder ever since. Babbage's industry seems to have been immense; we have seen a list of forty-two distinct publications, and a large number more of which some obstruse or recondite subject of pure or mixed mathematics is investigated. His writings on Life Assurance contributed largely, we believe, to place the subject on a sound theoretical and practical basis. Indeed, every one of his publications, whether books or mere single essays, have been of direct utility in the improvement of man's estate. Mr. Babbage was a Liberal in politics, and a consistent friend of all reforms. Appointed Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge, the chair once filled by Newton, he filled it for some years and then resigned it, apparently in dissatisfaction with the condition of the University, which he was unable or unwilling to improve. In more than one of his writings he expressed very gloomy views concerning English science as will as English politics, and incurred odium in the former case by the publication of an attempt made by his friends to have him elected a member of the first Reform Parliament, in 1832, turned out abortive, and it was never repeated. In his old age, Mr. Babbage, besides laborious physical and psychological investigations, spent much time in trying to invent machines for algebraical calculations. In these pursuits he was fearfully disturbed by the organ-grinders and other musicians of the streets, against whom he made a determined and almost relentless war. Many readers will recollect his pathetic appeal to Parliament for relief from this nuisance of London, by which it is not unlikely that the lives of several eminent writers and scholars have been shortened. The most entertaining and popular of Mr. Babbage's works is his "Passages from the Life of a Philosopher," published first in 1864.

Sir Roderick Murchison has been so prominently before the public of late years, as President of the Royal Society, and in connection with geographical explorations and discoveries, that all intelligent readers may be presumed to be in acquaintance with the leading events of his life. Like Babbage, Lyell, Darwin, and so many of the great British men of science, Murchison was what they call over there, "a gentleman by profession." A member of a landed family he was able to gratify his fondness for science in the army, in which character he passed through campaigns in the Peninsula, where he was distinguished for bravery. In 1816 he left the army to devote himself to scientific pursuits, and especially to geology and geography. Having made a geological tour over England in company with Mr. Phillips, he gave its results to the public in 1836 in the book since so celebrated, "The Silurian System." In subsequent years he made and wrote and made a new era in British geology, as besides the discriminating and satisfactory nomenclature which it presents of the Graywack groups, it established "the fact of the existence of a composite and very extensive series of fossiliferous strata interpolated with the old red sandstone and the older slaty rocks." At any rate, the book gave its author a European reputation. Murchison's next great labor was a geological exploration of Russia in which he traversed the country in all directions and pushed his investigations into the Ural mountains. In these journeys he was accompanied by the well known continental geologists, Verneuil and Keyserling, but the Scotchman has usually received most of the credit due to the books "On the Geological structure of the Northern and Central Regions of Russia in Europe," and "Geology of Russia in Europe and the Ural mountains." As a compliment or reward for these works the Emperor Nicholas loaded him with Russian orders, and Queen Victoria had before made him a Knight. About five years ago, or some time in 1866, if we rightly remember, she made him a Baronet. Sir Roderick published Murchison's papers in the transactions of the British Associations and various scientific societies, if collected, would fill many volumes, and some years ago he prepared a popular account of his researches regarding England's geology under the title, "Siluria." The incident in Sir Roderick's life worth mentioning is his prediction that gold would be discovered in Australia, Geology for many years was in such an inexact science in England; the people regarded it with distrust as tending to the disparagement Moses in particular and to heresy in general, while even the educated classes looked upon it as a pseudo science and upon the pretensions of its adepts as vain and extravagant. Thus Dean Buckland used, during many years, to lecture at Oxford to half a dozen, or even two or three listeners. When gold was found in Australia, and it was recollected that the late Professor Jameson, of the University of the rocks and strata as reported to him, had not only affirmed that there must be gold there, but had explained why he was sure of the fact. Upon hard-hearted, common sense John Bull the effect was immediate. He followed in a body. Though we may not say that geology at once became popular, the incident certainly contributed much to give it a recognized place among the useful sciences.

Since the close of the heavier labors of his industrious life, Sir Roderick Murchison's name has been kept in the memory of the time by the vivacity of his interest in the labors of others. First, there was his controversy with Professor Sedgwick on a disputed point in geology. Then his active participation, by advice at least, in the preparation of successive Arctic expeditions, and of journeys to explore the interior of Africa, or to discover the sources of the Nile. Both as President of the Royal Geographical Society, and as a personal friend of the traveler, he has been the chief medium of communication between Dr. Livingstone and the public during the extensive periods of the Doctor's absence from England, and one cannot but regret that he did not live to witness the explorer's return and to hear the narrative of his discoveries.

A Ready-Made Premium Calculator.

Bankers, brokers, business men generally, and all others requiring the aid of such a work, will find "Towne's Premium," for ready reference in buying gold, bonds and stocks, a most decided convenience, or mental labor-saving appliance. The tables are arranged in book form, and give correctly the premium on any amount from one dollar to ten thousand dollars, from one-eighth per cent. and to the twenty-five and seven-eighths per cent. It is a most admirable, simple and comprehensive means of determining premium, and cannot but prove invaluable to the purchaser of gold, bonds, stocks, or in three dollars. It is for sale by Mr. Jas. H. Thaw.

IN an address before the National Insurance Convention at New York, on the subject of valuations and interest, Mr. James H. Goodsell, of the *Spectator*, referred to the fact, ascertained from the report of the New York Insurance Department, that of seventy-one life insurance companies doing business in the land question; and lastly, that the claims of the people should be advocated in Parliament and defended with the assistance of representatives from among themselves. As was to be expected, the letter is reported to have given considerable offense to BRADLAUGH, ODGER, and the Internationals, who regard Mr. POTTER's opinions as too conservative and fogyish. The *Times*, however, comments upon it very favorably, declares that it will be read with interest and satisfaction, and commends it to the careful consideration of the governing and privileged classes. The letter thoroughly sustains us in the views we have previously expressed.

Spanish Pranks.

We have known persons to stir up a hornet's nest for no other reason than the very wantonness of it, but they generally got precisely well stung for their pains; and it is possible that, notwithstanding the pacific temper which the American people have shown under the goading injustice to which they have been subjected by the Spanish-Cuban authorities at various times during the progress of the Cuban war, further persistence in this sort of impertinent irritation may cause them to visit these bombastic Don Quixotes with punishment of a similar character. The proceedings of the Spanish authorities in the case of the steamer Hornet, reported by telegraph a day or two ago, are inexcusably outrageous. This vessel is owned by American citizens, and about a year since left the port of New York on a supposed expedition in the interest of the Cuban patriots. After having, as is stated, landed a quantity of arms and ammunition on the coast of Cuba she repaired to Port-au-Prince in Hayti, where she has remained up to the present time, under the constant surveillance of a Spanish man-of-war. Recently, it appears, the Spaniards grew tired of watching her, and convoked a prize court which condemned her for piracy, without having heard either witnesses or advocate in her behalf; after the usual farcical form in such the Havana authorities sent a communication to the Haytien Government demanding her immediate surrender, and threatening, in case of refusal, to take her by force. The Haytien Government declined to give her up, on the ground that the *Hornet* was under a foreign flag; whereupon the Spanish Consul at once hauled down his flag and sailed to Havana for instructions. It now remains to be seen what further action will be taken in the matter. The *Hornet* had been regularly cleared with the proper papers from ports of the United States; and so satisfied of this fact was Captain Temple, of the United States frigate Tennessee, that he said he offered, as long ago as last March, to escort her from Port-au-Prince under the protection of his guns. Should the Spanish authorities attempt to execute their threat of capturing her by force, the government of the United States will be bound to take prompt and decisive action in the matter; and this irrespective of the fact that Hayti has incurred the displeasure of the administration by its hostility to the San Domingo annexation scheme. If Spain means a quarrel, it must be with us, not with poor, defenceless Hayti. The circumstances are of grave importance, and the government ought to act at once. We have no war vessel at Port-au-Prince, but there is a formidable naval squadron lounging in the neighboring bay of Samana, a portion of which might be put to practical use.

Mysterious Disappearance of a Son of Roger A. Pryor.

Considerable excitement exists in literary and scientific circles in New York over the mysterious disappearance of the son of General Roger A. Pryor, formerly a member of Congress from Virginia, and a General in the rebel army, who is now a leading member of the New York bar. His son is about twenty years of age, and has been missing since a week ago last Sunday night, at which time he left the family residence for a brief walk. What adds to the painful interest of the circumstances is the remarkable distinguished and honorable character of the young man's father, while at Princeton College, in New Jersey, he gained the one thousand dollar mathematical prize given by Mr. Jay Cooke, out of a class of eighty-six. He afterward went to Germany, and there took his degree of distinguished himself and gained decided credit. So greatly did he endear himself to the faculty that the head of his college addressed him a letter after his return to the United States, expressing a great desire for his return, assuring him of a professorship, and stating that he could easily gain a fellowship if he would only consent to become a naturalized British citizen. Dr. McCosh, of Princeton, was also greatly attached to the young man, and attracted the most noteworthy processes, and hints were imparted for adoption and improvement. The writing of this book was a mere *parergon* or bye-work, as the Greeks called it. His arithmetical machine was to consist of two quite distinct parts, or inventions, one for calculating and the other for printing mathematical and nautical tables. The first was begun in 1826, and in 1833 it was nearly complete in all its allimportant particulars, with sufficient efficiency, when the work encountered an unpleasant interruption. Though the part of the machine for printing the tables calculated by the other was more full and perfect, the aggregate expense had already run up to 17,000 pounds sterling, while twice as much more was believed to be necessary to complete it. In terror of the cost, combined with misgivings as to the ultimate ability of the machine, the government abandoned the undertaking, and the invention as a whole always remained unfinished, though the calculating portion of it has been a world's wonder ever since. Babbage's industry seems to have been immense; we have seen a list of forty-two distinct publications, and a large number more of which some obstruse or recondite subject of pure or mixed mathematics is investigated. His writings on Life Assurance contributed largely, we believe, to place the subject on a sound theoretical and practical basis. Indeed, every one of his publications, whether books or mere single essays, have been of direct utility in the improvement of man's estate. Mr. Babbage was a Liberal in politics, and a consistent friend of all reforms. Appointed Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge, the chair once filled by Newton, he filled it for some years and then resigned it, apparently in dissatisfaction with the condition of the University, which he was unable or unwilling to improve. In more than one of his writings he expressed very gloomy views concerning English science as will as English politics, and incurred odium in the former case by the publication of an attempt made by his friends to have him elected a member of the first Reform Parliament, in 1832, turned out abortive, and it was never repeated. In his old age, Mr. Babbage, besides laborious physical and psychological investigations, spent much time in trying to invent machines for algebraical calculations. In these pursuits he was fearfully disturbed by the organ-grinders and other musicians of the streets, against whom he made a determined and almost relentless war. Many readers will recollect his pathetic appeal to Parliament for relief from this nuisance of London, by which it is not unlikely that the lives of several eminent writers and scholars have been shortened. The most entertaining and popular of Mr. Babbage's works is his "Passages from the Life of a Philosopher," published first in 1864.

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REV. CHARLES VOYSEY, an English clergyman, who, it will be recollected, was some time since tried and condemned for heresy while holding a living in the Episcopal Church, has founded a church of his own in London. His first service was held a few Sundays ago, a very large audience being in attendance. Mr. Voysey read the service out of a revised prayer-book, stripped of every sentence which could possibly be harmonized with the Trinitarian idea. The Apostles and Nicene are thus expurgated. The Litany and communion services are entirely omitted. The Gloria Patri, Te Deum, Doxology, &c., are very much shortened. The Psalms are carefully expurgated. The new liturgy contains the following beseechment:

"That it may please Thee to help all literary persons and writers of the present time, that they may use all their powers in the cause of truth and righteousness, and rise above the praise and blame of men."

In his sermon the reverend gentleman denounced most of the essential and distinctive doctrines of the Christian faith with great vehemence.

PREPARATIONS for the ensuing session of Congress are in full blast. Nearly all the annual reports of the various chiefs of bureaus have been completed and are now submitted to the heads of departments, who themselves are busily engaged in gathering the material for their reports to the President and Congress. It is said that a number of suggestions looking to modification of the laws relating to the tariff and to the internal revenue system are embraced in these statements of public affairs. The Washington *Chronicle* states that a number of representatives of the shipping interest are already in that city, urging that propositions go to Congress, in the President's message, for laws reducing the tariff on all the various materials that go into vessels, whether built of iron or wood. Outright subsidies to steamship companies, which were so generally sought at the last session of Congress, are not likely to meet with much favor at the coming session; but provision may be made more directly in aid of the ship-builder and his employes.

A PROPOSITION is on foot in New York to erect a statue to Horace Greeley in Central Park, and a number of his admirers have already sent subscriptions to the *Standard* for that purpose. Mr. Greeley has been unchisled during his lifetime, and by resigning men under various pretenses, but we never expected to see him out on a public bust.

MR. DARWIN has another surprise for us in store. He is now engaged on a work in which the facial expression of animals will be one of the chief topics discussed. The work will be freely illustrated, and the author will endeavor to prove that dogs and monkeys can laugh, smile, sneer, look cross, or throw a deep pathos into their speaking countenances.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

The young King of Bavaria has an immense garden on the roof of his palace at Munich which is said to rival the celebrated hanging gardens of Semiramis. In the center of it there is a lake with fishes and swans swimming in it, and this is surrounded by woods in which there are various animals and birds, and also rock-work and grottoes. The rocks had to be hollowed out before transporting them to the roof, the better to enable the building to bear their weight. There is in the center of the garden a sort of tent or pavillion of great magnificence which no one but the King ever enters. The apartments under the palace roof were formerly occupied by the ladies of honor, but they have been converted into stables, because too much time was required to hoist horses to the roof whenever the King wished to ride or drive through this fairy-like resort.

Some time ago there was some talk in Germany about a committee which had been formed for the purpose of erecting a monument at Ems on the spot where the Emperor of Germany, then simply King William of Prussia, being disrespectfully importuned by M. Benedetti, the French minister, turned to his adjutant and said: "Tell this gentleman that I have nothing more to say to him." Nothing has been heard of this project lately; yet of all the modern occasions which Germany has commemorated or proposes to commemorate, by a monument, none certainly has been more important in its bearing upon events.

The inhabitants of Afghanistan, taking advantage of the disorganized condition of the Persian Government, consequent upon the ravages of famine and pestilence, have invaded the latter provinces, and that unfortunate country is now afflicted with these three greatest scourges of poor humanity—war, famine and pestilence.

At Rochester, N. Y., a few days since, Mr. Frederick Douglass, intending to go East, applied to the conductor of Wagner's drawing room car, on the Central Railroad for a seat. The conductor having orders not to allow colored persons in those cars, refused Mr. Douglass admittance. A gentleman standing by explained to the conductor who the applicant was, and then, as special favor, Mr. Douglass was allowed to enter the car. The circumstance calls from the *Democrat* advice to other colored men to at once assert their privilege to enter the cars, and if refused admittance to enter proceedings against the railroad company.

The cattle disease still prevails in Great Britain, and shows no signs of abating in virulence. From recent statistics it appears that animals are extensively affected by the disease in thirty counties of England, and in twenty-three counties of Scotland. The "foot and mouth" disease, according to high authority, has been known in Norfolk county, England, for over thirty years, and no effectual remedy against its ravages has been discovered. Prominent English veterinary surgeons, however, are reported as having arrived at the conclusion that the disease, if allowed to run its course without interference, seldom destroys the affected animal.

The Metropolitan Hotel, a well-known house in days gone by on Pennsylvania avenue, Washington City, was closed by legal proceedings on Monday in consequence of the failure of its proprietor, and a load of passengers who sought its precincts from the morning trains were obliged to go elsewhere. This is the fourth large hotel closed in that city this season.

A curious and somewhat startling accident occured in Brooklyn last week. An ordinary range boiler burst, and the hot water very badly scalded a lady and several children who were in the kitchen. On examination the boiler was found to be very thin. Plumbers were called in to examine the boiler, and stating that he could easily gain a fellowship if he would only consent to become a naturalized British citizen. Dr. McCosh, of Princeton, was also greatly attached to the young man, and attracted the most noteworthy processes, and hints were imparted for adoption and improvement. The writing of this book was a mere *parergon* or bye-work, as the Greeks called it. His arithmetical machine was to consist of two quite distinct parts, or inventions, one for calculating and the other for printing mathematical and nautical tables. The first was begun in 1826, and in 1833 it was nearly complete in all its allimportant particulars, with sufficient efficiency, when the work encountered an unpleasant interruption. Though the part of the machine for printing the tables calculated by the other was more full and perfect, the aggregate expense had already run up to 17,000 pounds sterling, while twice as much more was believed to be necessary to complete it. In terror of the cost, combined with misgivings as to the ultimate ability of the machine, the government abandoned the undertaking, and the invention as a whole always remained unfinished, though the calculating portion of it has been a world's wonder ever since. Babbage's industry seems to have been immense; we have seen a list of forty-two distinct publications, and a large number more of which some obstruse or recondite subject of pure or mixed mathematics is investigated. His writings on Life Assurance contributed largely, we believe, to place the subject on a sound theoretical and practical basis. Indeed, every one of his publications, whether books or mere single essays, have been of direct utility in the improvement of man's estate. Mr. Babbage was a Liberal in politics, and a consistent friend of all reforms. Appointed Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge, the chair once filled by Newton, he filled it for some years and then resigned it, apparently in dissatisfaction with the condition of the University, which he was unable or unwilling to improve. In more than one of his writings he expressed very gloomy views concerning English science as will as English politics, and incurred odium in the former case by the publication of an attempt made by his friends to have him elected a member of the first Reform Parliament, in 1832, turned out abortive, and it was never repeated. In his old age, Mr. Babbage, besides laborious physical and psychological investigations, spent much time in trying to invent machines for algebraical calculations. In these pursuits he was fearfully disturbed by the organ-grinders and other musicians of the streets, against whom he made a determined and almost relentless war. Many readers will recollect his pathetic appeal to Parliament for relief from this nuisance of London, by which it is not unlikely that the lives of several eminent writers and scholars have been shortened. The most entertaining and popular of Mr. Babbage's works is his "Passages from the Life of a Philosopher," published first in 1864.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, October 28, 1871.

SANTO DOMINGO.

Highly Important Developments.

Threatened Complication with England—Reinforcement of Our Naval Squadron—Projected Invasion of Hayti.

Some time ago we printed a condensation of a long letter to the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, from its special San Domingo correspondent, in which he recited a number of facts and circumstances going to show that the annexation project was by no means abandoned. In a letter written from Samana, September 30th, and published in the *Inquirer* on Monday, he recurs to the subject, in substance as follows:

When, last August, our naval force in Samana Bay was weakened, President Baez became fretfully querulous lest the remaining ships should not suffice to maintain his then fast waning power. Notwithstanding the fact that the hundred and fifty thousand dollars advanced as rental of Samana Bay for another year enabled him to strengthen his power considerably, he continued his urgent pleas for naval reinforcements, claiming that it was necessary to have one ship at Puerto Plata, on the north side of the island, one at Samana Bay, and one in the vicinity of San Domingo City.

He was assured from Washington that he should be reinforced, and, accordingly, on the 9th of September, the United States steamer "Shawmut" arrived at Samana for permanent duty. Baez was under the impression that as soon as the naval reception to the Russian Duke, Alexis, was over, the "Severn" and "Kansas" would follow. This will make a fleet of five vessels, carrying forty guns. Instructions were also brought from Washington directing the exercise of the utmost vigilance in maintaining the interests of Baez.

Strange and serious complications have, however, arisen within the past few weeks, which may necessitate the presence of an even larger naval force. There is serious danger, unless prudent counsels prevail, of our being involved in a controversy with England, whose navy is largely represented in the West Indies. For some months trouble has been brewing between the Government of Great Britain and that of Baez, and recent events have very nearly forced matters to a most serious culmination. The original cause of the difficulty was the repudiation by the Dominican Government of their "waivers" or bonds given by them in return for loans from merchants in Puerto Plata, mostly Englishmen. These bonds, it was expressly contracted, were to be received in payment of the custom-house duties on importations; but when offered in such payment were repudiated by Collector Gonzales, acting under instructions from President Baez.

When the British Consul protested against this injustice, instead of obtaining redress for the merchants he was grossly insulted by the Vice President, an illegitimate son of Baez, who even went so far as to endeavor to break up the Consul's business, he being a partner in a mercantile house at Puerto Plata. This gentleman complained to the British naval authorities at Nassau, and as long ago as last December an English frigate was dispatched after redress from the San Domingo authorities, the design only being frustrated by a notification sent to the British Captain by Commander Mordaunt, of the United States ship "Nantasket," that his instructions would not permit him to join in any hostile acts of all hazards. The English captain hesitated to take the responsibility of an act that might involve war between the two nations, and referred it to the Home Government.

Last fall a full Consul General was sent out to inquire into the matter. He was, however, grossly insulted by Baez, who declared that he would be backed by the United States navy, and even threatened to take from the British consulate the former Dominican Secretary of War, who had sought under the protection of the English flag. The Consul-General, as may be supposed, "fought shy" of any hostile retaliation. What will be the upshot no one knows, but it is clear that under their present insurrections Baez and his supporters are not likely to resist to the last any British interference.

An invasion of Hayti is also projected, at the head of which is Baez. The present President is the expulsion of Nissage Sagent, the present President, but, from Baez's great activity in the matter, it is probable that the intention is to unite the two countries under his rule.

The Dominican Secretary of State, who has just returned from his mission to President Grant, boasts that capitalists in the United States will advance him all the money necessary to sustain President Baez, till annexation (which he says they look upon as a fixed fact, is accomplished. He states, also, that he has assurances that the President will spare no effort in aiding the consummation.

It might be well for capitalists who have advanced Baez money on the security of Dominican lands to know that grants of value have been made since the visit of the United States Commissioners last spring, and very little choice seaboard land is left for anybody.

That there may be no misapprehension as to the extent of our present connection with Dominican affairs, the exact words of the orders under which our naval officers are acting are as follows. They are as follows. From Secretary Robeson to senior officer:

"Afford countenance and protection to the Dominican people against their enemies now in the island and in revolt against the lawfully constituted government, and use the force at your command to repel any attempts to invade the Dominican territory by land or sea."

Again the Secretary of the Navy says:

"This government is determined to protect the present Dominican Government with all its power. Use your force to give it the most ample protection against any power attempting to interfere with it. If the Haitiens attack the Dominicans with hostile ships, destroy or capture them.

Finally, since the Commissioners returned from San Domingo, the senior officer has been instructed: "While your force is temporarily reduced, use renewed vigilance to protect the interests of President Baez, and conform, as far as possible, to his wish."

From the foregoing orders of the Secretary of the Navy, it will be seen how great is the danger of our being involved in a quarrel with England.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

Almost an Alliance Between France and England Against Prussia and Austria.

PARIS, October 28.—*The Cour le Dip'omatique* publishes what it says is a semi-official communication, in which it is stated that in 1864, Earl Russell, then British Minister of Foreign Affairs, made overtures through Lord Cowley, British Ambassador to France, to Rouher, proposing an alliance offensive and defensive with France, to help Denmark in case Prussia or Austria should declare war against her. England was to co-operate with France, and France was willing to promise France in return her assistance in the acquisition of her natural frontiers on the Rhine by the annexation of a portion of the Rhenish Provinces. Rouher asked time to consider, but three days from the time the offer was presented to him, Napoleon accepted them. Lord Cowley immediately communicated the Emperor's acceptance at his Government, whereupon Earl Russell replied that it was too late, as Her Majesty's Government had decided not to interfere in the case of Denmark. No attempt was made to reopen the subject.

The contributions to the relief of Chicago now amount to 178,430 francs.

Miscellaneous Dispatches.

PARIS, October 28.—Prince Napoleon made a violent political speech in the Council General of Corsica at Ajaccio yesterday.

Baron Itajuba, Brazilian Ambassador here, has received official notification of his appointment, by the Emperor of Brazil, as arbitrator under the treaty of Washington.

LONDON, October 28.—*The Morning Post* pronounces the rumor of the establishment of a Regency, in consequence of the Queen's prolonged illness, groundless.

LONDON, October 28.—The contributions to the Mansion House fund for Chicago sufferers amounted last evening to £78,300. The Glasgow subscription reached £5,350.

The steamers City of Washington, Batavia, Deutchland and Europe have arrived out.

LONDON, October 28.—Miss Ryc takes out one hundred and forty-five children from homes in America on the Nestorian, which sails to-morrow for Quebec.

VIENNA, October 28.—Emperor Francis Joseph is still undecided as to the demands of the Bohemian diet. The compromise proposed by Count Potocki will not be accepted. It is said that in case Bohemia sends no deputies to the Reichsrath, Count Hohenlath will resign.

COLOGNE, October 28.—A general strike for higher wages occurred among the railway employees of this city and vicinity. Over one thousand persons quit work.

The Markets.

LONDON, October 28, 4:30 P. M.—Consols, 93, Bonds—5-20's, of '62, 90¾; do of '65, 90¾; Coupons, of '67, 92¾; 10-40's, 89¼.

Tallow 48s 3d.

FRANKFORT, October 28.—5-20s of '62, 96¾.

PARIS, October 28.—Rentes 57 francs 50 centimes.

LIVERPOOL, October 28.—Cotton heavy; middling uplands 9¾d; middling Orleans 9¾d; sales 8,000 bales; speculation and export 2,000 bales; sales at Savannah or Charleston, shipping or shipped, 9¼d; Corn 35s 3d.

Petroleum—refined 18d.

TAMMANY.

What Evidence Tilden has Collected Against the Boss of the Ring and His Satellites.

NEW YORK, October 28.—The *Tribune* publishes tomorrow, in evidence against Tweed, which will be submitted to the Court to-morrow, and says: this arrest in criminal suits will probably follow at once. Application for his arrest will probably be made in Albany county. The charge will be: The fraudulent transaction—the subject of the contemplated suit began in the latter section of the County Act of May of 1870, creating the Board of Audit and providing for the payment of claims and liabilities against the city and county. The Board consisted of Mayor Hall, Comptroller Connolly and Tweed. The Board never had but one meeting, which did not last but fifteen minutes. The record was then made up of the minute and resolution, which resolution was drawn and read by Mayor Hall and left to be in his hand-writing. Instead of auditing claims on liabilities there, in plain violation of the law which provided that Auditor Tweed alone should collect together all claims and certificates of Wm. M. Tweed, President of the Board of Supervisors, or Joseph B. Young, Secretary of the same board, should be the evidence required to enable the claim to be paid. It is held by the Attorney General that the Board must have advised his colleagues that this was the execution of their trust, that everything was to investigate the accounts and find out what was due. The board had consequently no right to take certification proceed to resolution or to collusive. This duty was ministerial, not judicial. The next step was the collection of warrants. Of these warrants, $6,312,541 37 the defendants and tools of Tweed deposited $5,710,-913 78, and the New York Printing Company deposited $384,326 91, making $6,095,319 17; further, $166,648 68 is believed to have been deposited by Ingersoll in a different bank. The whole amount of the audit except $113,553 52 was really collected by the ring, in connection with or in collusion with Tweed. Ingersoll collected $3,501,584 59 of the warrants, and received from Garvey out his collections $47,744 65. Of that aggregate he paid over to Woodward $1,817,467 49, or a little more than half of the whole collections. Garvey deposited warrants amounting to $1,177,413 72. He (Garvey) paid to Woodward $731,871 01, over two-thirds of the whole amount of his receipts. Woodward deposited $1,032,715 76, and he received in checks from Ingersoll and Garvey enough to close collections to the sum total of $2,584,265 84. Of this amount he paid over $923,858 60 to Tweed. Woodward was then paid over by deputy clerk Sloane, of the Board of Supervisors, on whose certification, according to Mayor Hall's resolution, as well as on that of Tweed, the bills were to be paid. It is unknown to whom Woodward made other payments, but those he made to Tweed were established by the tickets accompanying deposits beyond doubt. The tickets were all made out in the handwriting of Woodward, and the letter of the latter to Tweed, wherein that they were generally made by Woodward in person—including $94,333 64. Tweed received the handsome aggregate of $1,037,192 14. Elbert A. Woodward, former clerk of the old Board of Supervisors, and John James Watson, former clerk, recently disappeared, saying he was going to Chicago. It proves that the transferring of property in connection with the Woodwards and Tweed, and the Woodwards have passed into other hands; and the correctness of these tables is certified to by an affidavit from Samuel J. Tilden, who swears that he personally traced and examined them.

POLITICAL.

Baltimore Municipal Election.

BALTIMORE, October 25.—The municipal election resulted in the choice of Joshua Vansandt, Democrat, for Mayor by 18,137 votes to 10,923 for Charles Duning, National Reform candidate. The Republicans of the city council stands nineteen Democrats to one Reformer, chosen in the Fifteenth ward by two majority. The second branch of ten members are all Democratic except one district in dount, and a recount is necessary to determine. The Republicans have elected in the field.

All of the members of the second Board are Democrats.

CHICAGO.

Amount of Receipts for the Relief of the Poor—A Marine Disaster—Various Branches of Business Brisk—Rebuilding—The Two Political Parties to Combine on City and County Nominations.

CHICAGO, October 25, 1871.

THE RELIEF FUND.

George M. Pullman, Treasurer, reports the following as the receipts for the relief of the Chicago poor: Cash received in detail, 1,500 remittances, five hundred and nine thousand two hundred and seventy-six dollars. Total amount for which drafts have been drawn, and to be forwarded for collection, etc., eight hundred and ninety-six thousand seven hundred and nine dollars. Aggregate receipts, one million four hundred and eighty-six thousand nine hundred and eighty-six dollars. Of this sum thirty-four thousand four hundred and ninety dollars have been distributed, the balance remaining on hand. The Committee estimate that they will require one million nine hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars for the next thirty days.

SAD FATE OF TEN SAILORS.

The schooner R. P. Messner, of this port, on the 9th inst., during the prevalence of a fierce gale, struck a rock on Crane Island, Lake Michigan, and soon filled. The crew were taken off by a fishing vessel, and carried to Mackinaw. Preparations were then made to get the schooner off. The pumps were negged, and after a few days' effort the vessel was got off. While the tug Leviathan was towing her ashore she filled with water and capsized, and five out of the nine on board perished. Entire relief came. It is charged that the tug cut loose from the schooner, when it became evident that she must sink, and left, making no effort to save the crew or collision with Tweed. Ingersoll collected $3,501,584 59 of the warrants, and received from Garvey out his collections $47,744 65. Of that aggregate he paid over to Woodward $1,817,467 49, or a little more than half of the whole collections. Garvey deposited warrants amounting to $1,177,413 72. He (Garvey) paid to Woodward $731,871 01, over two-thirds of the whole amount of his receipts. Woodward deposited $1,032,715 76, and he received in checks from Ingersoll and Garvey enough to close collections to the sum total of $2,584,265 84. Of this amount he paid over $923,858 60 to Tweed. Woodward was then paid over by deputy clerk Sloane, of the Board of Supervisors, on whose certification, according to Mayor Hall's resolution, as well as on that of Tweed, the bills were to be paid. It is unknown to whom Woodward made other payments, but those he made to Tweed were established beyond doubt. The tickets accompanying deposits are in the handwriting of Woodward, and the letter of the latter to Tweed, wherein that they were generally made by Woodward in person—including $94,333 64. Tweed received the handsome aggregate of $1,037,192 14. Elbert A. Woodward, former clerk of the old Board of Supervisors, and John James Watson, former clerk, recently disappeared, saying he was going to Chicago. It proves that the transferring of property in connection with the Woodwards and Tweed, and the Woodwards have passed into other hands; and the correctness of these tables is certified to by an affidavit from Samuel J. Tilden, who swears that he personally traced and examined them.

BUSINESS REVIVING.

The banks are running smoothly. They have few calls for loans, and deposits are abundant. Many of the Eastern and European insurance companies are paying their losses promptly, and these funds furnish active merchants with money to purchase goods, and capitalists who are preparing to rebuild. The grain, lumber and live stock markets are brisk, and as much is doing as before the fire—in lumber much more. It may seem strange, but mechanics are wanted. Carpenters and masons of every class are in demand at good wages. Potter Palmer is pushing up his new grand hotel as fast as possible. When the fire took place the walls were up to the top of the first story of the superstructure. They were not damaged of any consequence. He will have a full force on during the winter, and expects to have it up to the top of the fourth story by June. The stores on the first story he will have ready for occupation on the 1st of January. They will be rented when ready for $40,000.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

By an oversight in the hurry and excitement which has characterized our city for the past two weeks, the donations from Chicago's suffering poor from Louisville, Ky., and Titusville, Pa., have not been properly acknowledged. Both were munificent and generous donations.

CITY AND COUNTY NOMINATIONS.

The combination of the two political powers for the next city and county election has not yet been fully consummated, owing to the large number of candidates and the diversity of views of those engaged on the work of combining, but the work will be finally consummated; at least, such is the prevailing opinion. There is no diversity of feeling in regard to the nomination of Mr. Medill for Mayor, Mr. Gage for City Treasurer, and Mr. Adamson for Judge of the Superior Court. They are all popular. The nomination of Mr. Howe for County Treasurer is pronounced generally unpopular. Mr. Phillips has been substituted.

REPUBLIC INSURANCE COMPANY INSOLVENT.

Gen. Upptegrove, State Auditor, has filed a bill in the Circuit Court for the dissolution of the Republic Insurance Company of Chicago, on the ground of insolvency and mismanagement of its affairs by its board of directors. It is asserted that its capital assets are $1,133,600; its risks outstanding, $14,000,000; losses by the recent fire over $1,000,000; the stock notes amount to $3,992,000. It is stated that many of the stockholders are insolvent, and their notes cannot be collected.

THE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

SAN FRANCISCO, October 25.—The Occidental Insurance Company of San Francisco resolved to-day to resume business.

THE NORTHWEST FIRES.

Great Fires in the Woods Near Beloit, Wis.—Barns, Stock, &c., Burned—Urgency of Immediate Relief for Michigan—Fifteen Thousand People Homeless—The Fires Still Burning and Now Cros Springing Up, &c., &c.

MILWAUKEE, October 24.—A special to the *Sentinel* from Beloit, Wis., says there are large fires in the woods seven miles east of there, and barns, stock, &c. were burned near Rascoe; vestiges of the fires are reported, and the city is filled with a dense smoke.

RACINE, October 24.—In view of the urgency of immediate and copious aid from the people outside the State, the following circular of appeal to the people of the United States has been issued by the Michigan State Relief Committee.

To the People of the United States:

We need instant and plentiful aid for from twelve to fifteen thousand people at least in the State of Michigan, who have lost homes, food, clothing, crops, horses and cattle. On the night of the Chicago fire two thousand people on the east shore of Lake Michigan and four or six thousand on the west shore of Lake Huron were reduced to almost absolute destitution. Within two or three weeks other small villages and settlements have been blotted out, and a number of individual farm houses, barns and frontier dwellings have been swept and destroyed by the all-pervading fire cannot from want of information be accurately calculated. The figure may be known by the time it reaches you, are still burning, and new ones springing up. The area of ruin and devastation is daily increasing. The intensity and dramatic magnificence of the calamities which have overwhelmed other cities and the fearful suffering that have ensued, cannot be. A long, hard, cold winter is approaching. Large numbers of these people are accessible only by water, and navigation will soon close. Within a single month or six weeks now remains in which to feed, clothe and shelter them from the winter season, which extends far into the months of spring. They must be helped now or they will perish. They will need, too, in the early spring, seed and implements for the harvest next year. The winter portion of them must commence life entirely anew, and at the beginning of winter their isolation from the centers of commerce and the means of communication makes them almost as much cut off and still the more urgent. The people of Michigan have nobly responded to the appeals which the misery has made to their sympathy and generosity, but they are indirectly crippled by the Chicago fire and directly by the assistance they gave to the sufferers from that calamity before they were aware of the demands which would be made upon them at home. Many of them, too, have themselves become the sufferers from the fires which have occurred in this State. In made public, and many of whom we fear are yet unknown, we ask prompt and efficient aid from our benevolent fellow citizens everywhere. Money and supplies may be sent direct to the Michigan Relief Committee at Detroit or Grand Rapids.

Detroit Sends Her Thanks.

Mayor Brush handed our reporter the following letter last evening:

DETROIT, October 21, 1871.

Jared M. Brush, Mayor:

DEAR SIR: We beg to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 19th inst., inclosing draft for $890; also authorizing us to draw on you for $1,700, which we have this day done. When the goods in the thirty boxes, one barrel and two trunks are received, we will see that they are put to good use towards relieving the wants of the sufferers by the great fire. We are ever grateful to your citizens for their kindness.

Yours, &c.,

M. GARRISON,
Chairman Detroit Central Relief Committee.

The Relief Trustees' Meeting.

Yesterday morning the regular meeting of the Relief Trustees was held at the Mayor's office, Mayor Brush in the chair. There were present Messrs. Harper, Barr, Schmertz, Nimick, Moorhead, Pears and Berry.

Mr. Harper, from the Committee on Banks, reported and paid to the Treasurer the following sums for the wisconsin and Michigan sufferers:

Merchants and Manufacturers' Bank, $1,000; Iron City National Bank, $500; Second Ward Bank, $500; Citizens' National Bank, $500; Dollar Savings Bank, $2,000.

On motion of Mr. Harper, J. N. McCullough, Esq., a member of the Board of Trustees, was appointed a committee to forward as soon as possible to Chicago the coal donated by our citizens.

On motion, adjourned.

Acknowledgement.

Mayor Brush yesterday received the following letter, which explains itself:

NEW BETHLEHEM, Pa., October 23, 1871.

Hon. J. M. Brush, Mayor of Pittsburgh:

DEAR SIR—Inclosed find my check for $87 25, donations of the citizens of New Bethlehem, Clarion county, Pa., which we will be pleased to send 1 to M. Garrison, of Detroit, for the sufferers of Michigan and Wisconsin. The Odd Fellows of this town send $22 to the committee at Chicago—in all $107 25 donated by the town. If you see proper to give us any credit or acknowledgement, do it through the COMMERCIAL, of Pittsburgh.

Yours, very truly, C. E. ANDREWS.

RIOT IN LOS ANGELES.

The Chinamen Resist Arrest and Murder an Officer—Chinese Quarter Attacked by a Mob—Sixteen Chinamen Hung.

SAN FRANCISCO, October 25.—A terrible riot is now going on in Los Angeles. A fight having occurred in the Chinese quarter, officer Biderian attempted to arrest a Chinaman for shooting another, when the Chinese on both sides of a narrow street opened fire—Officer Biderian was shot through the shoulder, but succeeded in getting on horseback and escaped. A Mexican boy, named Juan Jose Maudres, was shot through the leg. The mob attacked the whole Chinese quarter. The attack was resisted by a large force, a hundred armed men prevented any from escaping, and fifteen Chinamen were hanged by the mob. Fire was applied to the houses but was extinguished.

At 9 P. M. order was partially restored by the authorities. There will probably be no more bloodshed. Several Chinamen have been arrested and are now in jail.

List of U. S. Patents.

Issued to citizens of Western Pensylvania for the week ending October 24, 1871, and each bearing that date. Reported weekly for the COMMERCIAL from the office of David A. Burr, Solicitor of Patents and Attorney in patent cases, Washington City, D. C.:

No. 120,180—Hub for carriage-wheels—Joseph Y. Burwell, Worthington.

No. 120,186—Process of removing obstructions in oil wells—Jas. Dicker, Oil City.

No. 120,188—Grain bar—Alexander W. Foster, Jr., Pittsburgh.

No. 120,227—Paper file—Henry J. Asthalter, Pittsburgh.

No. 120,235—Manufacture of boilers, steam evilinders, fittings, &c.—Geo. W. Bollman, Pittsburgh.

No. 120,262—Telegraph apparatus—Webster Gillett, Allegheny.

No. 120,263—Oil tank—Geo. W. Glass, Pittsburgh.

No. 120,294—Water cooler, filter and ice chest combined—Richard Long, Pittsburgh.

No. 120,226—Scroll saw—Isaac R. Ritter, Reading.

No. 120,229—Gas-fitting—Gustave Rosenthrall, Pittsburgh.

No. 120,249—Refining hydrocarbon oils—H. W. C. Tweddle, Pittsburgh.

New York Cattle Market.

NEW YORK, October 25.—Total beeves 8,695, of which 2,400 came from Illinois; 1,500 Kentucky, 1,200 Ohio, Texans, and 300 New Yorkers, for to-day, 152 cars at Communipaw, 108 at One Hundredth street, and 52 at Weehawken. Most droves came through in original hands, making very large number of owners; quality fair, and Texans being slaughtered by receivers; market over-stocked, slow and dull; prices 12@15c lower; closing at about 9c before night; even then a few cattle were left; the range was 9@12c for fair to prime; some very poor Texans went lower, and a few pairs of first choice sold up to 12c, and even 12½c; but the fine cattle in lots; average scarcely 10c; 8 cars Texans, 1,100 lbs, 9c; 2 cars 1,200 lbs, 9c; 2 cars, same weight, 6¼c; 2 do, a hard lot; 5 cars Illinois, 1,200 lbs, choice; 7 cars Ohio, 8 cwt, 10c; 10c; 5 cars choice, 8 cwt, sold at 11c@11½c.

Sheep—41,400 for the week ending to-day; market slow at 4c decline, or 4½@5c for sheep and 6c for lambs; 2 cars Illinois sheep, 90 lbs, 5c; 2 cars Ohio 95 lbs, 5c; 1 car 75 lbs State clip; 1 car 74 lbs Canada lambs 7¾c; 1 car 70 lbs, 7¾c.

Hogs—41,100 total, and 15,500 to-day; market overstocked and dull at 4c decline; 2 lots sold at 6¾@6¾c, and dressed 6¼@7c; a car Ohio sold alive, 215 lbs, at 5 16c; State dressed begin to arrive.

Watertown Cattle Market.

WATERTOWN, October 24.—Beef cattle—Receipts 1,231; market inactive and declined 1@1½c; sales choice at $5 75; extra steers $5 25; first quality $5 00@5 25; second $4 50@4 75; third $3 75@4 25. Sheep and lambs—Receipts 2,901; prices improved fully ½c @ lb; sales in lots at $4 25 to $4 75 each; extra $5 00@5 50.

FINANCE AND TRADE

WEDNESDAY EVENING, October 25, 1871.

The demand for discounts in this market is very active and the banks are only able to meet it in a comparatively small way. Some of them are able to supply their old customers, who need very little bank accommodations. In the outside market rates are growing stiffer, and it is not uncommon to have good naper placed at one per cent. a month. At New York the *Evening Post* of yesterday says: The currency movement to and from this center is for the moment unimportant, the difference if any being against the city banks. The mercantile demand for money is pressing, and it is almost impossible to sell prime acceptances better than one per cent. a month. The banks also report very large offerings for discount, only part of which can be accepted. In this connection the suspension of a bankrupt firm is reported, the firm having assets sufficient to meet their liabilities, but finding it impossible to borrow money.

—The *Times* takes a hopeful view of the next bank statement: The bank averages of the present week will, from present appearances, show a further improvement. We look for a large addition to the average of gold notes, and believe there will be no loss in greenback notes. The contraction of loans will be less sharp than for the previous fortnight. We notice that the intimation is made by one or more of our neighbors that last week's averages of gold notes were forced by the payment of the Treasury to the amount of $1,000,000 for November interest, not payable until Wednesday of the present week. There is no ground for this charge. The Treasury cashed about $1,000,000 November interest on a rebate of five or six days' interest, and this amount went into bank in regular course.

—Government bonds showed a little improvement on the purchase of two millions by the Treasury.

Messrs. Jay, Bowen & Fox, brokers and members of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, furnish the following quotations of the closing prices-to-day of the most active stocks:

Pennsylvania Central	59
Philadelphia and Erie	24½
Lehigh Navigation	25
Catawissa preferred	44½
Cata Creek and Allegheny Railroad	77½
Lehigh Valley Railroad	59
North Pennsylvania Railroad	57
Minden and Mount Carbon Railroad	28
Schuylkill Navigation	15½
Reading	34¾

—JAMES W. KENNEDY, Broker, No. 40 Fourth avenue, (Apollo Building), dealer in Government, State and Municipal Bonds; Railroad, Bank, Insurance and Miscellaneous Stocks. Represented daily at the New York Stock Exchange. Buys and sells stocks on a margin for the same commission and on the same terms as the New York brokers. Receives deposits in sums of $500 and upwards on collateral or will transact promissory notes, or on mortgages on city or Allegheny county real estate.

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, October 26, 1871.

REMARKS—The market is without any change of animation, dealers manifesting no desire to operate, being wide apart in their views as regards the present value of oil. We did not learn of a single transaction for any delivery; at least, there was none made public. We can report liberal receipts of the raw material.

CRUDE.

In the absence of sales we can only furnish the asking rates, viz: Spot 12¾c; S. O. all year 12¾c; B. O. all year, 12¾c.

PARKERS—$4 70; Lower Creek $4 80; Oil City, $5.@@$5 00¾ @ bbl.

REFINED.

The market was a quiet one, the prices ruling the same as the day previous, viz: Spot 23¾c; October 24¾c; November 24c; December 24c for New York and Philadelphia delivery.

For latest oil dispatches see fourth page.

[Western Union Telegraph Line.]

TITUSVILLE, Pa., October 25.—The market was moderately active again to-day, though not so much oil changed hands as on the day previous; buyers were somewhat timid at the beginning of the week, and lower figures than during the day, but there was no quotable change in prices. We give the following

SALES:

1,000 bbls Church run, spot.....$4 65
1,000 bbls Church run, spot.....4 62½
1,000 bbls Penna. Trans.....4 60
4,000 bbls Penna. Trans.....4 50
1,000 bbls T. P. Co.....4 55
1,000 bbls T. P. Co.....4 50
100 bbls lower road regardless, spot.....4 77½
500 bbls 40 gravity.....4 75
500 bbls 46 gravity.....4 90
500 bbls 44 gravity.....4 80
5,000 bbls 47 gravity, spot.....4 97½

New York, October 25.—Closing market of 24th—Market depressed with scarcely any inquiry; quotations nominal; crude in bulk 14@14½c; refined 23½c on spot; cases 29@29½c; sales 1,000 bbls refined for November 23¾c. Philadelphia delivery dull and prices unchanged, refined for October quoted at 24c.

OIL CITY, October 25.—Market dull and nominal; ordinary on lower creek held $4 75@4 87 gravity at Oil City held at $4 95.

PETROLEUM CENTER, October 25.—Nothing doing; no sales $4 75@4 80 asking rates.

ROUSEVILLE, October 25.—Market quiet and nothing doing; lower creek $4 70@4 75.

TITUSVILLE, October 25.—Market very quiet at $5 50.

PHILADELPHIA, October 27.—Market quiet; S. W. 24½c; crude 14c; cases 28c; futures: October, November and December nominally 24c.

CLEVELAND, October 25.—Market quiet and without change; crude $5 40 per bbl; refined 24¾@23½c per gal.

[By Pacific and Atlantic Line.]

PARKER'S LANDING, October 25.—Market quiet and nothing doing; nominally crude 12½@13c; refined 24c.

NEW YORK, October 25, 3 P. M.—Market a little firmer; refined: sales of 1,000 bbls, balance of the month, at 23¾c; the market very little changed; we quote spot at 14¼c.

TITUSVILLE, October 25.—Market very quiet but firm; Church Run held firm at $4 62½; upper creek firm at $4 50 to $4 52½.

PETROLEUM CENTER October 25.—Market quiet and dull; offering $4 75 to $4 80; $4 90 is asked. No sales reported.

TIDEANNTVILLE, October 25.—Market very dull and nothing doing; about $4 25@4 30.

OIL CITY, October 25.—Market quiet at $4 95@5 00. Lower creek $4 75@4 80.

PHILADELPHIA, October 25.—Crude 14c; refined, October, 23½c bid; November and December 24c. Nothing doing.

PHILADELPHIA, October 25, 5 P. M.—October 24½c asked; November and December 24c; crude 14c.

Baltimore Grocery Market.

BALTIMORE, October 24.—The market has been active and excited again this week, with heavy sales, chiefly speculative, and we note a further large advance in prices. Sales for the week reach about 40,000 bags, and include 5,000 bags of Rio on private terms; 2,000 bags Old Government Java, 2,000 bags Eagle," undertood at 18½c, gold, in bond, this being the only transaction from first hands, and some 35,000 bags do, from second hands at from 18c up to 17¾c, gold, in bond. A large part of the sales this week have been to "shorts," who, since early in the week, are strong, and we quote Rio, in bond, as ranging from 18¾c to 17¾c gold, for fair to prime invoices, these figures being 1¾c advance of upwards of 50 per cent. on the rates current two or three months since. A part of this advance is no doubt legitimate, but it is largely speculative. We note the arrival this week of the "Clifton," with 4,000 bags Rio, and the "Brooklyn," with 12,000 bags do, and these two cargoes comprise the entire stock in first hands. The stock in second hands is, however, between 60,000 and 70,000 bags.

Sugars—There has been some movement this week in sugars, but the sales have mostly been made at a concession on quotations. Sales for the week end up about 4,500 hhds, and they include 565 hhds Porto Rico and 643 hhds Cuba, taken early in the week for refining, on private terms; 572 hhds Porto Rico, taken subsequently for refining, at 9.49½c; 1,300 hhds grocery grades do, 9 5-16@9 7-16c, and 200 hhds Demerara vacuum pan at 11¾c. Prices are off all round. Refiners quote as follows, viz: for refining grades Cuba and Porto Rico 9@9 1-16c; grocery Cuba 9¼@10c; grocery grades Porto Rico 9¾@10c; Demerara vacuum pan 10¾@11¾c. Stocks of 17,383 hhds, 16,129 boxes, 12,009 bags, against 6,218 hhds, 7,987 boxes and 2,600 bags at the corresponding period last year.

IMPORTS AT BALTIMORE FROM JANUARY 1ST TO DATE FOR THREE YEARS PAST.

	Hhds.	Boxes.	Bags.	Mats & Tcs.
1871	17,383	16,129	12,009	2,272 171
1870	82,065	49,285	24,348	7 382 1,501
1869	68,961	26,221	10,959	745

Refined Sugars—Are dull and lower; hard crushed being now quoted at 13@13½c, and soft do on a basis of 12½c for No. 12 yellow.

Syrups—Continue in demand, particularly the low grades, and the market generally is firm. Prices are as follows, viz: For Cuba clayed 30@35 cents; do, 65@66c; Baltimore 42@50c, and Sugar House 25c @ gallon.

Molasses—We have only to report since our last the sale of 60 hhds, tart Cuba, to go out of the market for distilling; new crop Cuba is daily coming in of all descriptions, and the boilers have all suspended operations for want of supplies; there is consequently no demand, except for grocery purposes, which is always very limited. We quote nominally as follows, viz.: For Cuba clayed 30@35 cents; do, Muscovado 32@40 cents; Porto Rico 35@45 cents; and English Island as ranging from 30 to 45 cents @ gallon.—*American.*

Monthly Coal Sale.

NEW YORK, October 25.—At the monthly sale of Scranton coal to-day, the following prices was obtained: Lump, on cars, $4 25@4 30; grate, $4 25@4 30; egg, $4 25@4 30; steamer, $3 80@3 85; chestnut, $3 80@3 85; stove, $3 80@3 90; chestnut, $3 80@3 90.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, October 25, 1871.

REMARKS—The promised and long looked for rise in the waters seems to have been indefinitely postponed, a fact which we are sorry to record. Yesterday the skies gave no rain—to-day they are bright; yet the extreme warmth now prevailing may end in a general "stirring of the waters." With regard to the markets generally we have little new to give the reader. Uniformity in prices is the order of the day, and an active trade is reported in all branches of trade. The Grain and Produce Exchange was well attended this morning, at which some important sales were made, which we note below: We have no special changes in prices worthy of note, and content ourselves with saying the market is firm and unchanged in price, with an active trade reported.

PROVISIONS—The following are the receipts of the leading articles for the past two weeks. They will be found useful for reference:

	Last week.	This week.	Total.
Flour, bbls	5,704	4,464	10 168
Apples, bbls	2,573	6,592	13,170
Cheese, boxes	1,270	1,186	2,456
Corn, sacks	4,343	4,439	10,882
Wheat, sacks	10,127	8,959	19,086
Barley, sacks	5,221	3,198	8,419
Rye, sacks	1,327	1,187	2,514
Oats, sacks	10,888	11,895	22,394
Butter, packages	211	189	400
Eggs, sacks	136	136	272
Bacon, tierces	34	35	69

Below will be found a carefully compiled statement of the market as ruling to-day—the rates being wholesale unless otherwise noted:

APPLES—Receipts 1,017 bbls. Market overstocked: Winter @ $2 50@3 00 per bbl; common @ 50@$2 25.

APPLE BUTTER—There is an increased demand, with sales at 70@75c @ gallon.

ASHES—Common soda ash, 4c; refined, 4½@4¾c; pearls, 9¼c; pots, 7¾c; nitrate soda, 4½@4¾c.

ANTHRACITE COAL—The current rates are for broken, egg, stove and chestnut, $5 50.

BEANS—White navy $3 00 @ bush; medium $2 75.

CIDER—Receipts large and prices lower; sales at $5 50@7 00 @ barrel.

CHEESE—We continue to quote fancy New York Goshen 16c; mild New York Goshen, September and October, 15c; Ohio Factory 14c; Dairy 12½@ 13½c @ lb. Receipts 168 boxes.

BACON AND PROVISIONS—Following are the current rates, viz: Sugar cured hams 11¾@11¾c; Prime Cincinnati sugar cured hams 11¾@11¾c; second quality do 10½@11c; sugar cured shoulders 9c; ribbed sides 9¾c; clear sides 9½c; breakfast bacon 11@11½c; dried beef 19c; mess pork $14 50. Lard: Chicago and Cincinnati in barrels, 11¾@12c.

CHESTNUTS—Receipts failing off; sales at $3 50@ 3 75 per bushel.

DRIED FRUITS—There is a better demand, with reported as follows: Peaches—halves 10@12c per lb; quarters 7@7½c; mixed 8@8½c; dried apples 6 @6½c.

CRACKERS—Boston 8c; butter 7½@c; cream 9c; fruit 11c; ginger 12½c; lemon 12½c; oyster 7½c; Scotch 12½c; soda 7½c; sugar 10c; water 7c; wine 10c; lemon jumbles, 14c; spiced jumbles 13c; sugar jumbles 12c.

DRYSALT—We are reported an active demand, with sales at 10½@11c @ lb.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—Receipts light and prices firm at 4@4½c @ lb.

BAKING POWDER—Banner, ¼-lb cans @ doz, $1 75; ½-lb do @ $3 00; 1-lb can $6; 5-lb cans, $30 @ per doz.

BROOMS—Fancy $2 50; No. 1, $2 25; No. 2, $3 50; No. 3, $2 75; common, $2 25@2 50 per doz.

BUTTER—Receipts 38 pkgs; sales prime at 18@19c; medium 15@16c @ lb.

CRANBERRIES—Prices range from $11 up to $18, as to quality per bbl.

CANDLES—Star, full weight, 19c; short weight 17c; mould 19c @ lb.

CHEESE—Keech's Phœnix Hydraulic, $3 50@3 75; Johnston, $2 25; Rosendale, $4 00@4 50; Calcined plaster, $2 25; Land plaster, $5 50@5 75 @ ton.

CARBON OIL—Prime standard white test for carbon oil—non-explosive or fire test—which is held at 24c @ gallon.

CONCENTRATED LYE—Sales Pennsylvania at $6 00; Philadelphia $5 50.

BROOM CORN—Is light and prices are fir

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1871.

TERMS.

One copy, per year.....$2 00
In clubs of twenty per year.....1 50
One copy gratis to the getter up of the club.

CATASTROPHES THE RESULT OF NATURAL CAUSES.

For more than a fortnight now the newspapers have contained little more of especial interest than details of the reign of fire in the Northwest, and the same fearful subject is still the topic which takes precedence of all others in the minds of the people. Over the vast extent of the country from the extreme north to the farthest south, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific, they talk, as they think, about little else. In the churches the calamity furnishes the burden of sermons and prayers; in the family, on 'change, and in all places wherever two or three meet together, the latest word concerning the great desolation is eagerly inquired for, or becomes the subject of earnest discussion and sympathetic conference.

Persons present at Chicago during the great conflagration say that amidst the horrors of the scene it was easy to discover from casual remarks of residents whose entire earthly possessions were vanishing away in flame and smoke, that even they found a transient consolation in the comparative magnitude of the catastrophe. To the heroically elastic and energetic character whose proper tendency is to rise against and resist antagonism the thought will seem no unnatural or unworthy compensation. In a moment of excitement and prior to mature reflection, it may seem as comforting to have lost one's all in a magnificent disaster as to have lost it in a magnificent enterprise, especially if the practice of incurring ambitious risks has become a habit.

Looked at from a very different point of view, these terrible devastations in Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan may be justly regarded as entitled to a place among the grandeurs of the extraordinary age in which they occur. There never was a Chicago before; it was the product and one of the most wonderful phenomena of the time. In 1831 a mere trading post among Indian wigwams, and growing up before the eyes of millions of people still young, into a great and beautiful city, comprehending within its compass all the treasures of an extensive commerce and refined civilization, it was an amazement to entire Christendom, or we may say to the whole world. Chicago could have been produced at no other time in the world's history; it was the direct result of the control over the powers of nature secured by the astounding discoveries and inventions of the present age. What is true of Chicago is under certain limitations, equally true of the entire West and Northwest. They have been colonized and opened up by the use of agencies but recently made available, and with a rapidity proceeding not only directly from them, but from the excitement imparted by them to the human ministers of their power. Temporary control of the great agencies of nature, or the ability to apply them to specific uses, is, however, still far from mastery. In the employment of them fearful accidents are constantly occurring, and men who employ them have not yet learned to work in harmony with their essential conditions. Chicago, without the newly discovered agents, would have been impossible, but having become possible, the necessities of its position demanded for its safety such precautions as the rapidity of its construction forbade, and as the inexperience and confidence of its builders readily dispensed with. So also in the new settlements to the West and North. The colonists hurried on by the excitement of the time, and driven by the seeming urgency of their situations, in their eagerness to subdue the land and make it fruitful, they forgot or disregarded the conditions of safety. Besides obvious neglects, it is sufficient merely to mention the irrational and reckless destruction of forest trees. Ignorant of or indifferent to the important functions fulfilled by them in the economy of nature, the settlers have almost everywhere destroyed a cause of rain in cutting them down, and thus, while diminishing the fertility of their land, have contributed to produce those fearful droughts now so common throughout the western country. By the drought of this season, extending from the beginning of August, not only every green thing was withered, but the springs and streams were dried up, and even the ground for many inches beneath the surface was completely divested of moisture. Hence, when there was nothing else to transmit the fire, it actually raged in the ground, and not uncommonly destroyed trees by the roots. Much has been lately said as to the impropriety of ascribing the calamities in question to the peculiar wickedness of the sufferers, and with most that has been said we heartily agree. But natural laws are inexorable, and it is neither uncharitable nor unphilosophical to believe that mistakes of the kind referred to, are sternly punished in a purely natural way. And however terrible the sufferings of which we hear as the results of the late fires, it may be that the calamity of a comparatively small and scattered population is, in the way of warning, to prevent what would be an incomparably more awful catastrophe in a more densely settled region.

But, however the calamities may be regarded in their essential character, in the impression which they have produced on the world at large, they have undoubtedly manifested in the most striking way the grandeur of the time. Such intensity of sympathy and such promptitude in rendering assistance were never before seen in this country, and hardly in any other, unless the feeling and action called forth in Great Britain by the East Indian catastrophe of 1857 may suggest a comparison. The fact is a revelation of the new character wrought in the Christian world by the intimate relations between all its members established by the telegraph and the railroad. Strangers thus brought into near connection feel for and aid one another as intimate friends. The social and material interests of cities separated by half the world having become in fact identical, the people seem to feel the responsibilities of the partnership and to recognize the corresponding duties. Not only from every section of the United States, but from England and Ireland, from France and Germany, aid is sent for the sufferers. It is an amazing exhibition of the civilizing and refining influence of true progress in the arts of peace. But all the assistance rendered will be needed, and, in spite of all, fearful sufferings during the coming winter will be unavoidable.

THE DEMAGOGUE AND HIS HOBBY.

Mr. WENDELL PHILLIPS is making speeches in Massachusetts in favor of the Labor Reform candidate for Governor of that State. That he is eloquent and startling no one doubts; that he is wise or teachable may be fairly questioned. He declares open war against the "wage system" and "the profit-making system," which is nothing more than the advocacy of Communism under another name. Capital is to be permitted to earn nothing; it is to be rendered impossible for any man to gain anything by furnishing employment to another; and if this does not mean the dissolution of the entire fabric of our economic civilization, then language has lost its significance. We say nothing here of Mr. PHILLIPS's notorious inconsistency, or that of the class of disorganizers to which he belongs. Men, who, like himself and General BUTLER, charge from two to four hundred dollars for the delivery of a single lecture, (witness the price paid for BUTLER's late Philadelphia fulmination against the Washington Treaty;) may be fairly cautioned against throwing stones until they have got out of their glass houses. But aside from this, the remedy for the wrongs of labor is not to be found in arraying the employer and employed against each other. It is not true that the capitalist and manufacturer are the natural enemies of the laboring classes, or the chief cause of the limited circumstances of the masses. And the facts of the case will justify us in the statement that those laboring men who are loudest and hoarsest in denouncing "monopolies," are almost without exception persons who never paid a penny of direct tax in their lives, and whose vested accounts will be found in places very different from savings banks. It is safe to say that as a class workingmen put more obstacles in their own paths, and treat themselves far more inconsiderately, than the manufacturer and capitalist do. In this country there is no reason why any skilled laborer may not with frugality and sobriety amass a decent competence for the support of his declining days; and wherever such a man is found whose pecuniary resources in middle life are as limited as when he graduated from his apprenticeship, it will almost invariably be discovered that he has either been intemperate, or idle, or extravagant, or given to the habit of roaming about from one place to another instead of settling down to steady and consecutive industry. If, as is urged, the rich are growing richer and the poor poorer, the reason is chiefly to be found in the steadfast, ambitious life of the few, and the oscillatory, aimless existence of the many. There may, of course, be cases in which persons struggle bravely against, yet are unable to rise above poverty, but it may safely be set down that seventy-five per cent. of the workingmen of this country might acquire homes of their own, if they went to work the right way about it. WENDELL PHILLIPS is reputed to be worth at least a couple of hundred thousand dollars. Suppose the workingmen whom he harrangues should take it into their heads to be as troubled about his money and the way he got it, as he seems to be about other people's finances. We suspect he would reconsider his views right suddenly. It is painful and humiliating to see a great man who has wrought good service for humanity thus becoming a demagogue in his old age, raking up the embers of suspicion and mistrust, and picking at the cohesive elements which hold the fabric of economic society together. The champion of the negro turned persecutor of the Chinese!

—In this connection we remark that it would tend to shed light on the labor problem, and assist investigators to understand causes, therefore more intelligently seek the cure, if one or more of our leading operatives were to prepare a table showing the probable weekly average of the sums that might be saved, now expended by that class for malt and spirituous liquor, the monetary value to the workmen of the time lost thereby, the costs to the employers, and a general exhibit of the effect of the habit on labor and productive industry so far as it comes under their personal observation. The labor movement is every day assuming more important dimensions, and like other questions which have previously arisen, will have to be definitely solved. But we shall not get at the true facts or principles of the case from such men as PHILLIPS.

IMPORTANT—IF TRUE.

Some days ago, in referring to the political and social revolution in progress in England, we expressed a belief that if the working classes could secure the reforms and ameliorations for which they call, without interfering with the monarchy and aristocracy, they would find it considerably to their account to postpone the republic for an indefinite period. According to the London correspondent of the New York *World*, they are themselves of a similar opinion. In Thursday's issue of that journal the writer gives the particulars of a political alliance said to have been formed between the peers and industrial classes, which, if true, is the most important movement that has occurred in England for many years. The platform of the new party is reported to be, substantially, the passage of laws providing for the self-government of counties, towns and villages, with powers for the acquisition and disposal of land for the common good; the establishment of schools for practical knowledge and technical education, in addition to those for elementary instruction; the organization of places of public recreation, knowledge and refinement as parts of the public service; the construction of decent and healthful homes for the laboring classes, and the building of numerous public markets in every town; and a general organization of the public service on the model of the postoffice for the common good. Making all due allowances for the sensational character of the journal in which the letter appears, and for the indefinite and at first sight apparently impracticable nature of the movement itself, it is by no means improbable that the landed aristocracy have really taken the matter in hand as alleged by the writer, and are moving for a coalition between themselves and the working classes, as the best way of frustrating the chaotic schemes of BRADLAUGH and ODGEN and other visionary declaimers and iconoclasts. It is certain that, if they choose, the peers can give the people better and more numerous benefits than the latter could hope to derive from a Republic inaugurated by a set of agrarians who have no more conception of the true moral and intellectual spirit and necessities of Republicanism than they have of their own blatant egotism and folly. Reformation from the classes above will bring about a far more healthy reconstruction of English society than revolution from the classes below. The names of the parties who are acting respectively for the peers and for the people are severally given, the former including some of the most exalted and ancient names in the kingdom, among them Marquis LORNE, son-in-law of the Queen; while the latter embraces many of the most thoughtful and practical minds of the age, SCOTT RUSSELL, the famous ship builder, being included in the list. It is said that the plan outlined as above is to be put into the shape of a bill and introduced into the House of Peers at the next session of Parliament. If it passes the Upper House, GLADSTONE and his party cannot oppose it in the Commons without at once losing their hold on popular confidence. Now the question is, will the middle and commercial classes outbid or outdo the Lords? If the hereditary principle in legislation is brought into union with popular sympathy, the agitation for the abolition of the House of Peers will, of course, cease; and this is unquestionably the reason and the agreement of the contract said to have been entered into.

GROUNDING ARMS.

The *Missouri Republican's* conviction of the utter hopelessness of electing a Democratic Presidential candidate, and its frankly expressed opinion that the best thing the party managers could do would be to avoid making any nomination, is shared by a large and increasing number of Democratic journals. The Memphis *Ledger* says:

"If matters progress as they are progressing—if no change come over the masses of the North, the most hopeful Democrat cannot expect a Democratic triumph next year. And what can be done by the Democracy to bring about a change? What new policy can it suggest that would catch the popular heart? We can imagine nothing. Others may be more keen-sighted, and discover victory through clouds of disaster. No matter upon whom the Radical nomination falls, the party, now unquestionably numerically strongest, will, if he be opposed by the nominee of a Democratic convention, vote solidly together. All the Chase men, and Schurz men, Grant Brown men, and Greeley men will go with their party as against the Democratic nominee."

And the Nashville *Banner* discerns the same signs, and in an article on the future of parties, remarks:

"If we say that we have hopes of the success of the Democratic party in the momentous Presidential canvass of next year, we deceive ourselves. If leaders seek to prove, to our deception, by ingenious array of figures and false promises, that the chances for victory are sufficient to risk all Southern hope upon the repetition of the campaign of 1868, they seek to prove what they know to be false, and do it sinisterly and selfishly. The masses, we think, are read, and see, and are possessed of enough intelligence to interpret the unerring truth of figures, without leaders, be they ever so unbelievers, though they speak it not, and will mistrust the sincerity of those who would unwisely decoy them into battle.

The Memphis *Avalanche* discovers in the recent elections in this State and Ohio the fixed determination of the people to make a finality of the constitutional amendments as affirming the results of the war, and the Richmond *Whig*, another prominent reflex of Democratic opinion, says:

"The results of the recent elections will go far to convince all reflecting men that if the Democratic party takes the field with Democratic candidates, it will be doomed to a Waterloo defeat, and that the great work of pacification will be postponed for another term of four years. Such a course would drive back into the bosom of the Republican party all the liberal men who are now striving to organize an opposition to the present administration. Much as they distrust and dislike that, they distrust and dislike the Democracy more. It is known that the majority of the Northern people—in whose hands are the destinies of the Republic—will vote for no man whose election would endanger what they consider the legitimate results of the war. We see that the hope of ten years, is the hope of the sort brings them together at once on the war issues."

It is clear that the verdict of Ohio and Pennsylvania has utterly demoralized the opposition. What course they will ultimately pursue is by no means certain, even to themselves. The party leaders will hardly be inclined to fall in with the suggestion of the *Republican*, and disband the organization. From present appearances it seems likely that they will so far defer to the unmistakable patriotism of the people as to select some *quasi* Republican for their standard bearer, if such a man could be induced to accept a nomination at the hands of the various elements of opposition that lie scattered throughout the country. But the Democratic party, as such, is evidently defunct. When the Coroner's inquest is held we suspect the verdict will be: Died of inability to recognize the events of the nineteenth century. *De mortuis nil nisi bonum.*

ASIATIC TRADE AND RAILROADS IN CALIFORNIA.

Before the Pacific Railroad went into operation, while all or nearly all were agreed as to the immense direct advantages which it was destined to bring to the United States, opinion was divided concerning its effect upon the European trade. The Suez canal was a disturbing element in all calculations on the subject, as comparatively few ventured to anticipate that in the Asiatic trade with Europe, we should be enabled to compete with the Red Sea route. But this seems now certain to be fact. The Japanese and Chinese commerce with Europe is already taking the American route with advantages which Australian and East Indian merchants are not likely long to disregard. According to a late California paper, five hundred bales of silk shipped at Yokohama on the 22d of June, were delivered by the Pacific road in Liverpool, in forty-seven days, that is, thirteen days sooner than would have been possible by the Suez canal. From Yokohama and Hong Kong the ship Alaska brought 54,665 chests of tea and 282 bales of silk, besides much other freight. The next steamer, which arrived in San Francisco on the 12th of September, brought 27,444 chests of tea and 708 bales of silk, besides other freight. In a word, the unexpected trade suddenly became so important and assumed such vast dimensions, that the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, which had asked Congress for a subsidy to enable them to make two voyages a month between the coasts, resolved not to wait for an answer to their request, and at once started the additional vessels made necessary by the condition of the service. The Alaska was therefore dispatched as an extra steamer to Yokohama for tea, and our California authority states that OLIPHANT & Co. of Hong Kong vainly endeavored to engage another steamer to convey an additional cargo of the same article by the same route. The American steamers are said to be engaged sixty days beforehand for freight, and the merchants think of employing sailing vessels, clipper ships, in the transportation.

Such being the vigor and extent of the trade at present, it is easy to anticipate, as our California contemporary remarks, something of its extension and magnitude, when instead of one Pacific Railroad, there shall be three. Already the necessity of a network of railroads to meet the wants of the trade, is anticipated, while preparations are in progress for their construction. The Northern Utah Railroad Company are building a branch road to connect the Union Pacific and the Northern Pacific Roads. This road passes from Ogden through Utah and Montana. Between Ogden and Soda Springs the work is begun, and by December first, the road will be finished to Logan, and by the first of April to Soda Springs. From there the road runs direct to Taylor's Bridge, on Snake river. Thence it passes through an extremely fertile region to the watershed between the Madison and Henry Lakes, then follows Madison creek some sixty miles, and at Jefferson cuts the Northern Pacific. This road will not only open up the fertile country through which it passes, but will also bring San Francisco into direct relations with the Northern route of commerce, terminating at Puget Sound. It is not strange that San Francisco already begins to assert for herself the position and dignity of a greater New York on the Pacific.

THE Pennsylvania and Ohio elections have thrown the Pittsburgh *Post* into a variety of disorders, nightmare and fits being most conspicuous in the complication. For the Democratic party in the next Presidential contest it can see no possibility of success. Something tremendous must be done, and the thing that impresses itself most favorably on the *Post* is that Colonel THOMAS A. SCOTT, the great Railroad Monarch, should be run by the Democrats for President. The idea is thus concisely expressed:

"We must bridge the chasm that exists between the Democratic and the Republican parties, so that the tens of thousands who are tired of Radical corruption and imbecility can rush to the polls and save constitutional government. We have bridged it with patriotism, with honesty, with the broadest principles of justice and right, and yet the tens of thousands hesitated and feared to trust the passage way. Let the gulf be bridged by the man himself and then they will come without hesitation."

The recent elections, we should say, have demonstrated pretty conclusively, not that "tens of thousands of Republicans are tired," but quite the reverse. If anybody is "tired" it is the Democratic party. State after State has gone Republican, and whatever hope the Democrats may have at one time had of carrying the country, has been totally destroyed. Neither the present state of facts nor the probabilities of the future suggest a desire on the part of Republicans to pass over the "chasm" to which the *Post* refers. The only place of the sort which we can discover is that into which the Democratic party has fallen; to get out of the "chasm" it is but natural they should manifest a strong desire. It is they, not Republicans, that have any occasion to talk of a "bridge" whereon to make their escape from destruction. The *Post's* agony over the situation is amusing and its shrieks for help little less than ludicrous. As for Colonel SCOTT, he is unquestionably the foremost railroad manager of his time. But as yet his achievements have not caused his name to be much associated in the minds of the American people with the Presidential office, nor has such an idea entered into his own clear and active brain. He would probably say that for the present he has greater business on hand, which he cannot forego to be President. And, besides, is he not a Republican? Did he not vote for GRANT and assist to carry Pennsylvania against the Democrats last week? To what can the *Post* point to show that he is in any respect in sympathy with the Democratic party? The *Post's* proposition, if it is anything, is a tribute to a Republican and Republican ideas. After all it has no significance except as it illustrates how completely desperate is the situation of the Democratic party. And so will Col. SCOTT say as he continues to gobble up Railroads for his breakfast, dinner and supper.

THE comments by the Philadelphia papers over the great Railroad Lease betrays the dissatisfaction, the existence of which has been suspected, with the lease itself. The *North American*, after remarking that it "places the Pennsylvania Road in full control of the route to and from New York," says that "the effect of the arrangement on the business of our port and city is what touches us first,—this depends on the views and intentions of the corporation." But as to this it is not so certain and employs many "ifs" to describe the situation. For instance:

"If they employ their gigantic resources for the edification of the city by which the road was really created, we shall have no reason to regret that western and interior purchasers are obliged to go so many miles further to buy what they can procure more advantageously here. If they assist heartily in giving success to our steamship line, and discriminate in our favor rather than against us, we shall be well pleased at the preponderance of a friendly power."

The *Enquirer* is in a similar state of mind, but attempts to quiet its apprehensions by referring to the interest the Railroad company has taken in the new steamship line, which, it argues, it would not have taken if it intended to "cut" Philadelphia. It says:

"We believe now, as we have always done, that the interests of this great corporation are with this State and this city, which fostered it when it was young and weak, and we further believe that should it ever exercise a contrary policy it alone will be the severest sufferer. The power of Pennsylvania which created the Pennsylvania Company can, if they prove false to Pennsylvania, create another as strong as themselves."

Our Philadelphia friends should experience no difficulty in determining in their minds what will be the policy of the Company. It will be precisely what is for its interest, and will contain not a grain of sentiment. It seeks New York for a terminus wholly on this ground, and it will adopt the rule towards Philadelphia, as it has towards other cities and towns in its lines.

WE wonder that some one has not caught up the remark of the Rev. ROBERT COLYER to his people on Sunday last, that "if necessary he could make as good a horseshoe as any man in Chicago," as a text whereon to hang a sermon, whose moral should be: "Young man, learn a trade." Such an application would be good, but it ought to be added that it would be dangerous, after learning a trade, to forsake it to become a minister. There are very few ROBERT COLYERS; probably it would be difficult to find even another like him. Blacksmiths turned preachers there probably are in plenty; but to have removed at the forge would have, by far, been better for that highly respectable and useful calling and the ministry. It is not certain that the other trades in general and the clerical profession might not both be advantaged by recruiting the former from the latter. That this is so seldom the case, while the reverse is frequent, is a thing to note, and perhaps is the explanation to many things which some have found it difficult to account for.

BONAPARTIST intrigues continue to be regarded with intense interest in France, and apparently with good reason. Though no one seems able to form even an approximately accurate estimate of the late Emperor's strength in the country, there is cause of alarm in the mere uncertainty, and even his bitterest opponents are ready to admit that he may have more friends than any one suspects. According to late reports, Paris was in excitement over the report that the man of Sedan was about to attempt a landing somewhere on the coast. Ships of war were, therefore, cruising about in hope of preventing that measure of success, while all due preparations on the part of the Goverment had been made to arrest the adventurer's proceedings in the interior. But if he lands, everything would seem to depend on the army.

Architecture and Conflagration.

Some of the worst faults in Chicago architecture are referred to in a letter written by Horace White, of the Chicago *Tribune* to the Cincinnati *Commercial*: All stone buildings of whatever kind, crumbled away at once. Iron stood as little as stone. Brick alone resisted the heat, and many structures of this material would probably have been saved if they had been properly arranged internally. The postoffice was a fair sample of the so-called fire-proof buildings. The floors were of tiles, resting upon brick arches supported by iron beams. Iron columns supplied the place of internal walls. The window-casings and doors were of iron—in fact there was hardly any wood in the building except the furniture. The heat, however, was sufficient to warp the iron columns and displace the beams, and so the whole interior tumbled into the cellar. The *Tribune* building had inside brick walls, strengthened with iron columns, and securely braced. It stood while everything around was blazing, but it was burned out at last, and a large part of the front was knocked out by the warping of the iron beams. We are informed that the thick walls of the fire buildings in Chicago were as a general thing nine inches in thickness—mere shells highly ornamental but offering no barrier to the flames. They were burned as a matter of course, and their burning created a furnace in which no fire-proof building could stand. Herein Chicago has been taught a lesson. But will she heed it?

Nast's New Book.

A book that will be certain to command immense popularity and sale is the forthcoming story of "Miss Columbia's Public School," or "Will It Blow Over?" composed of satirical and telling references to the leading topics of the day in politics, illustrated with seventy original illustrations by Nast, the famous artist of *Harper's Weekly*. It is true that the reality of the persons whom we take it the book is designed to immortalize, is so sublimely extravagant as almost to pass beyond the boundaries of satire or burlesque, and yet we doubt not that the incomparable pencil of the artist will be able to make even their audacious wickedness seem grotesque and ridiculous. From the title which has been selected we judge that the subject will be treated somewhat after the manner of "Dame Partington's Public School," a satire which it will be remembered proved such a successful hit in England during the Franco-Prussian war.

The Coal Question at Cincinnati.

At a meeting of the Council of Cincinnati, on Friday last, a resolution was adopted authorizing the appointment of a committee to confer with the railroad companies in relation to the transportation of coal to the city, and also to proceed to the mines and ascertain what coal can be bought for. Another resolution was adopted granting permission to the railroad companies to lay a switch-track on the Public Landing, to be used only for unloading cars filled with coal, and to be taken up by the companies at the end of one hundred and twenty days. It is stated that the railroads will be able in the course of a few days to supply at least 75,000 bushels every twenty-four hours.

"WHEN a deed is done for freedom," says an American poet, "through the broad earth's aching breast runs a thrill of joy prophetic." The echo of our own Emancipation proclamation comes back from Brazil, borne upon the hallelujahs of two millions of unshackled slaves. The lower House of the Legislature, it will be recollected, passed a gradual extinction bill some months ago; and now the Senate, by an overwhelming majority, has indorsed the measure. Of the exact details of the plan we are not yet informed, but they are probably substantially those of the bill which passed the House of Deputies. This measure provided for gradual emancipation, and allowed a limited compensation to the slave-holders. Every child of slave parents, born after the passage of the act, is declared free, as also are all slaves held by the Crown, while those who are still retained in bondage are granted the right to hold and inherit property, and to purchase themselves at once on tendering the amount of official valuation, which is probably placed at a very moderate figure. The measure also provides a fund for purchasing and freeing those who are owned by the Church. The Emperor DON PEDRO is now absent in Europe, but he has for a long time been anxious to bring about the abolition of slavery in his dominions, and there is no doubt that the bill has already received the sanction of the Regent, his daughter, who is as strongly in favor of freedom as himself. The Spanish West India Islands are now the only part of the Western hemisphere where slavery exists, nor can it be long before it will be abolished there also.

WE referred the other day to the tight grip which BISMARCK had managed to obtain on England, in getting hold of bills to the amount of twenty-five millions sterling on English capitalists, and to the uneasiness felt in British financial and commercial circles on account of it. We observe also that the persistent accumulation of gold by the German Government from other sources is causing considerable agitation and is helping to increase the monetary stringency. It is computed that the amount of gold coin at present locked up in the Berlin treasury vaults is at least one hundred and fifteen of million dollars, in addition to which there is said to be five millions in French silver five franc pieces, while other indemnity payments will add yet further to the store. BISMARCK says that the accumulation is made by way of preparation for the new coinage recently determined on, but a grave suspicion is entertained that it is held for very different purposes. The phrase "money is the sinews of war" is an English saying, and English capitalists are fearful that BISMARCK proposes presently to exercise his muscular prowess on some one, somewhere. It is barely possible, however, that he is amassing his ducats for the purpose of making a *liberal* offer to England for the purchase of Heligoland. It is likely we shall hear more of this little place before long. And the word sounds queerly, when the syllables are divided.

AND now the report is revived that the Pope has fully determined to leave Rome on the coming of the Italian Parliament, which report is this time supplemented by another that that old heretic, King WILLIAM, along with President THIERS, is giving His Holiness aid and comfort of some sort. In his determination to leave, which he will do, if at all, "to preserve his spiritual independence," the Pope is said to have the support of the Cardinals. It is to be observed that the world has come to look with comparative indifference on matters of this kind, and will not be in the least disturbed by his decision.

EX-COMMISSIONER NEELEY has been pardoned by Governor GEARY—on what grounds he has not made public. As he is in better health than when he entered the Workhouse, and as no new mitigating facts have been developed, and as the Court, in passing sentence declared, that if they were clear as to the statute applicable to his crime a much longer term would have been given, it is difficult to perceive on what ground the Governor could have based his action, which we feel bound to say was called for neither by the demands of justice nor the appeals of mercy.

THE loss by the Chicago fire, immense as it is, comes down as the facts are known. One hundred and fifty millions is as high as it is now put by those who arrive at a conclusion from a calm survey and diligent inquiry. Of this amount, however, probably not a quarter will fall on Chicago. New York is by far the greater sufferer of all. Between eighty and one hundred millions in money will flow into Chicago in a steady stream to rebuild the city; and New York and other cities are again "setting up" Chicago in business as rapidly as possible—a fact which amounts to a tribute of which she has every reason to feel proud.

THE result of the election in this State has been particularly destructive to the Presidential prospects of Gen. HANCOCK. He is no longer Pennsylvania's favorite son. Nobody cares whose son he is—he is nothing now, so far as the Presidency is concerned. His name was a good deal used to rally the faithful in the recent canvass, and he was put in nomination a good many places. But it was like stale beer—the people would not take it. The General will have to give up his Presidential aspirations. If it will comfort him any he can reflect that half a score of others are no better off.

The Gypsies.

A letter from Stuttgart, in a local German contemporary, makes the surprising statement that the Gypsy Parliament is expected to assemble soon near Canstatt. The announcement is seriously made, and no joke is intended. It seems that the Parliament in question meets only once in seven years, and consists of delegates from all the various countries of Europe in which Gypsies wander or reside. Nor is the "Great King of the Gypsies" a mere fiction. His name is Joseph Reinhard, now ninety-eight years old, and he lives in Muthlangen, near Gmuend. An interesting thing to know is the fact that he has been the husband of seven wives and is the father of forty-five children. In the United States we know little by actual experience concerning the strange wandering race, so familiar in Europe, the character and doings of whose members have furnished such entertaining materials to some of the great novelists of England, Spain, France, Germany and Russia. Only from time to time, and at long intervals, a band of the vagabonds makes an appearance among us, and surprises observers as much by what it does not as by what it does. Familiar through books and tradition with the performances of the bands when camping near villages and farm yards in Europe, Americans are sometimes puzzled to know, or even disagreeably disappointed to discover, that *their* Gypsies seem to be a reformed and highly moral people. Neither stealing chickens, nor poisoning pigs, nor seeking to doctor horses, previously made ill merely to be cured, they might readily get credit if they asked it for the pretense by which their ancestors, in the time of Queen Elizabeth, used to impose on the credulity of simple people, namely, that they were Christian pilgrims who, in penance for their sins, had been ordered to wander seven years without once sleeping in a bed. We do not, however, mean to say that all American gypsies are so exceedingly virtuous. The fact is that this country is a most unfavorable field for their favorite occupations and mode of life. In bands or companies they are not comfortably and profitably at home only in those countries where the mass of the people are still illiterate and controlled by old fashioned superstitions. Thus they formerly swarmed in Germany, where there are now comparatively few of them. In consequence of the progress of education within the last fifty years, the country has become unfitted to them. In Spain, on the other hand, their number was lately estimated at forty thousand; England was believed to have somewhere about eighteen thousand while the Austrian empire was believed to have as many as ninety-seven thousand of them, chiefly in Hungary and Transylvania. In Moldavia and Wallachia where the mass of the population are still more ignorant than in the former countries, the Gypsy element is said to be as numerous as in Turkey, that is, to count about two hundred thousand souls.

In the letter referred to above, it is stated that of the twenty-eight gypsies in the Wurtemberg army during the late Franco-German war, not one was wounded, a fact which may or may not be characteristory of the prevalent notion of the cowardice of the race. But the common impression concerning their timidity can hardly be a mistake. They show it even in their crimes, seldom committing murder except on pain of life in peril, and the ascription of the opposite virtue to his Bohemians, is only one of the mistakes into which Sir Walter Scott fell when attempting to portray the Gypsy character. In reference to the religion of the gypsies a great deal of discussion would have been saved by remembering the Hindoo saying about the religion of the tribe of which our Western gypsies are probably an offshoot or branch—"there are seventy-two religions and a half in the world, the half being the religion of the jhats (or gypsies.")

THE Illinois *Staats Zeitung*, the great German paper of the Northwest, burnt out but resuscitated, has a long article on the Chicago fire, in which particular reference is made to the German interests affected by the great disaster. It thinks that Chicago can rise again only through aid from without:

"This is the naked truth, and it were folly, by inconsiderate boastings, to frighten away the foreign help which we most urgently need. Yes, Chicago needs help; yes, Chicago must for the time go a begging, like blind Belisarius: "*Date obolum!*" A bitter word—a word to force tears of shame and pain to the eyes of even the strong man; but it must be spoken. And especially in a German journal must it be spoken, for no portion of the population of Chicago have suffered even remotely in equal proportion with the Germans. And probably no class have suffered in a greater measure, but the German South Side proportionally more."

The meaning of the writer becomes evident from what follows. Though many millions of dollars perished in the great business houses of the former part, the merchants and millionaires of all the word are ready to give credit and current money for the relief and recovery of the sufferers. But when they come to come to the tens of thousands of laboring men and small mechanics, who have been rendered homeless? Whence are they to procure even scanty subsistence for their families? Should rich Mr. Stewart throw ten millions to Chicago, new palaces of trade, new warehouses and banks would be built with the money. But who will advance means to the burnt out German, Irish and Scandinavian laborers and mechanics in order that they may become in some degree recover themselves from the ruin in which they have been plunged? The mere interests of capital will not suffice for this end. Only the most common feelings of humanity must be appealed to for assistance, while the appeal to nationality may also be expected to do somewhat. To the Germans of other places and of the old home a very earnest and touching appeal is made. There are the tears and the sighs of the widow and the orphan, Chicago calamity to which the *Staats Zeitung* refers, is the one which involves in the long run the greatest amount of positive suffering, and which as cogently as any other addresses itself to all who have money to spare.

A RELIGIOUS reformation of a most remarkable character is now in progress in Syria, which is resulting in the conversion of the people to Christianity by thousands. According to the account given by an English Catholic paper, the movement is in a miraculous manner; having its origin in 1868 in a society of Mussulmen in the vicinity of Damascus, who used to spend days and nights in prayer. For long time the members of the society were not impressed with a conviction that the religion they professed was erroneous, but each supposed that he alone was thus troubled. One night about forty were together engaged in devotion, and all fell asleep. The Christ appeared in a vision to each separately, and they all simultaneously awoke and revealed to each other in their fright the state of their minds and the vision they had seen. The fear that they might be slaughtered if they openly proclaimed their change of religion, and the belief that Christ is God, and that He is the only Saviour of the world, led to make even their audacious wickedness seem grotesque and ridiculous. From the title which has been selected we judge that the subject will be treated somewhat after the manner of "Dame Partington's Public School," a satire which it will be remembered proved such a successful hit in England during the Franco-Prussian war.

THE forthcoming report of the Commissioner on Pensions will contain much interesting information in relation to the pension system of the United States. The aggregate amount paid to pensioners of widows and dependent relatives upon the roll June 30, 1871, was less than on the 30th of June, 1870. This was owing to the lessening of individual pensions by minors reaching the age of sixteen years. There were 57,622 Revolutionary soldiers pensioned for services, 11,308 soldiers of the Mexican war, and 169,791 soldiers of the war of the rebellion pensioned as invalids. It is thought that the annual expenditures for pensions for other than the latter class have nearly reached their maximum, and that during the next ten years they will gradually and materially decrease. The total number of soldiers serving in the various wars in which the nation has been engaged since 1775 is as follows:

Soldiers of the War of the Revolution	275,000
Soldiers of the war of 1812	525,631
Soldiers of the Seminole War of 1812	9,711
Soldiers of the Black Hawk War of 1832	5,031
Soldiers of the Florida War of 1836 to 1842	22,235
Soldiers of the Creek disturbance of 1836	14,459
Soldiers of the southwestern disturbances of 1836	2,808
Soldiers of the Cherokee country disturbances of 1836	3,986
Soldiers of the New York frontier disturbances, and of the Canadian rebellion, 1838	1,128
Soldiers of the Mexican War of 1846	73,260
Soldiers of the War of the Rebellion of 1861	2,656,523

THE opponents of capital punishment could hardly desire a better argument against that method of disposing of a criminal, than was furnished them on Monday last in the execution of HARRIS for the murder of a warden in the Connecticut State Prison. The unhappy man had made a desperate attempt to kill himself by thrusting a wire into his heart, but not being a skilful anatomist, he failed to cause death, the sharpened wire only reaching the muscular part of his heart. Notwithstanding the fact that he probably would have died within a few days from the wound, he was taken out and duly hanged in the jail yard, where his cheerful exit from life was witnessed by some two hundred "invited guests" and the other prisoners then confined in the jail. Since the sheriff who presided at the execution of a negro murderer in New Orleans took another "nigger," who was only accused of murder, out to witness the execution by way of warning, we have heard nothing so humiliating as this Connecticut experience. We do not here discuss the question of capital punishment; only if we are to have executions under the formality of law, in the name of humanity let them be conducted as decorously and with as little barbarism as possible.

THE organization of the Geneva Board of Arbitrators for the consideration of the Alabama question is now completed by the appointment mentioned in Saturday's COMMERCIAL, of the Brazilian Minister to France as a member of the Commission. The Board will convene within about six weeks; since, under the provisions of the treaty the Governments of the United States and Great Britain are each to deliver to the tribunal, on the 16th of December of the present year, a statement of its views concerning the controversy between them. Four months afterward the two Governments are to deliver to the arbitrators their respective counter-statements in response to the previous statements, and in two months thereafter each Government is to deliver its final argument or summing up of the whole case. These statements are all to be written or printed, but should the tribunal require any further elucidation with regard to points in dispute, another argument, either oral or written, may be made by the counsel of the respective countries. The final decision of the arbitrators is to be rendered within three months from the close of the arguments.

THE Rev. Colonel Granville Moody has preached a sermon on the Chicago fire, wherein the calamity which has befallen Chicago is attributed to the fact that the city recently gave a majority vote against Sunday and the Liquor Laws. He likewise finds in the fire "a warning to other cities," on a city which has shown such a devotion in its worship to the Golden Calf." A list of cities is furnished, from Babylon to Chicago, including Cincinnati, New York and Boston, which have either been destroyed, or may expect to be destroyed, on account of their sins. We hope that we are sufficiently grateful to the Rev. Mr. Moody for leaving Pittsburgh out of the lists. Touching his mode of reasoning, the New York *Tribune* remarks that it "puts us all in the following fashion, which should, perhaps, be regarded as additional proof that the Rev. Mr. Moody has put New York in the right place, and that the city is fully deserving of its predicted fate:

If Mr. Moody finds any satisfaction in representing the Lord of Hosts as a sort of Justice of the Peace, we suppose that it is useless to try to argue him out of his folly; but, perhaps, he may not be pleased to be told that the most degraded heathen races are precisely of his mind.

THIS is the era of long railway tunnels. The Mont Cenis tunnel is just finished, and that of St. Gothard, which is to be of about the same length, is to soon begun. The project of a suburban tunnel to connect England and France is also revived, with better prospects that the work will actually be entered upon than ever before. The original estimate of the time necessary to finish it was nine years, but it is now said that the work through can be made in one year, and that in two or three years more it can be open to travel. A similar reduction has been made in the estimate of the cost, originally set at ten million pound sterling. The geologists report that the tunnel will run through gray chalk the whole distance, and that can be scooped out as easily as Dutch cheese. The plan looks so feasible and the cost is set so low that it is now seriously in contemplation to construct two tunnels instead of one, so that trains shall never be running in opposite directions through the same tunnel.

THE Philadelphia *Ledger* says that by the failure of C. T. Yerkes, Jr., & Co., the funds of the city treasury are found in deficit to the amount of $487,000, this amount having been virtually loaned to the firm, who were large operators in city loans, as well as other stocks. Messrs. Yerkes & Co. have considerable property—enough, it is said, with the securities on the official bond of the City Treasurer, which is for $100,000, to secure the city from loss.

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